

32 Adam Bros (4)

COVENTRY CITY and BURNLEY TEAM GROUPS

SHOOT!

25p

28th FEBRUARY, 1981

INCORPORATING
SOCCER MONTHLY

**FRANS
THIJSSSEN-**
the Players'
Player of
the Year?

World Cup preview

**ISRAEL v
SCOTLAND**

Focus on
AVI COHEN

**PALACE'S
AMAZING
DECLINE**

TREVOR FRANCIS
'Better than ever'



**The No.1 in
football**

SHOOT! view!

THE majority, probably all, of the star players mentioned in the feature accompanying this editorial will happily admit that their progress to the top has been as much to do with luck as it has with their obvious talent.

Mel Holden had talent. Plenty of it. He traded in scoring goals. Tragically, Mel's luck ran out.

He died earlier this month from multiple sclerosis at the age of 26.

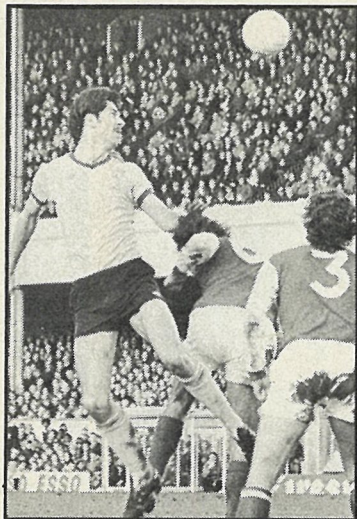
Mel's future knew no frontiers when he left school to join Preston North End as a teenager.

Born in Dundee, Scotland, Mel was a leggy youngster, slight of frame, with a capacity for scoring goals against the tightest defensive marking.

He made 69 full League appearances for Preston, averaging a goal every three games.

Sunderland's manager Bob Stokoe bought him and Mel rewarded his faith by scoring 23 goals in 66 full League games.

It is difficult to know the precise time his illness began to impair his form but when Mel left Sunderland for Blackpool, he made only two League appearances there.



Mel Holden's aerial power was renowned.

The end of Mel's League career is reported in two words in the 1979-80 Rothmans Yearbook. "Contract cancelled" it says ominously.

He played in Holland briefly, returning to England with his wife and young son when he became seriously ill.

Mel's loss to his family and football, cut down when his talents should have flowered majestically, illustrates the fine margin which exists between triumph and despair.

The Scottish born striker is greatly missed and would have given anything to have been featured with Frans Thijssen and the other stars on these opening pages.

Mel's death serves as a sharp reminder to those players who choose to criticise the game which gives them a living.

They should remember that they are the fortunate ones in an often tragic world and should count their blessings.

FRANS THIJSSEN

the players' choice?

IF Ipswich star Frans Thijssen becomes the first foreigner to win the PFA Player of the Year award he knows who he'll have to thank.

Not just the hundreds of players up and down the country who put his name in the blank space on their voting forms, but also, as the Dutch midfielder admits, his team-mates at Portman Road.

Says Frans: "It will be their award as well as mine if I am lucky enough to win. I know I wouldn't even be in the running if I did not play for Ipswich and we were not having such a good season."

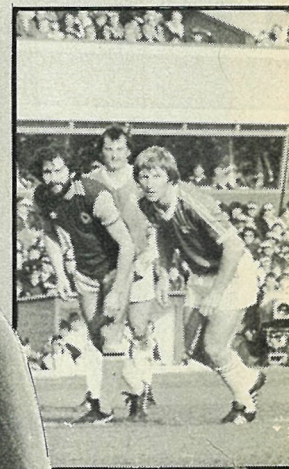
"I have been happy with my own form, but it has been a team effort at Ipswich with no player taking more credit than any other. If I win it will be good for me and the club, but I hope people will not forget the other players who have helped to keep us at the top of the League."

Frans, who was 29 in January and is in his third season with Ipswich, has been in superb form this term. But when he was transferred from FC Twente in a £200,000 deal he only had one thing on his mind.

"I wanted to do a good job for Ipswich," he says. "I never thought

about winning top awards. In fact I never even knew about this Player of the Year award because there is nothing similar in Holland."

When I think about all the good players in the First Division I know what it means to be in the running. Coming to play in England has made me a better player than I was in Holland and I enjoy it a lot more."



So well has he settled in his new surroundings that he can point to his recall to the Dutch international scene and his victory in last season's Ipswich Player of the Year poll as proof that his move across the North Sea has been a huge success.

Week in, week out, the skills of Thijssen and fellow countryman Arnold Muhren have won praise from players and fans alike as Ipswich have marched towards an almost impossible triple target of League Championship, F.A. Cup and UEFA Cup.

Muhren soon became a firm favourite when he arrived at Portman Road in 1978 and within six



months his friend was taking the same route to the top. And it is a move he has never regretted.

Ipswich boss Bobby Robson says he'll never spend money more wisely on the transfer market. "It cost me £350,000 to bring them both over," he laughs. "Just think what I would get for the same money in England."

"They have both been marvellous value for money. Frans is having a quite exceptional season and deserves any success that comes his way. He's a great advert for the club."

Not surprisingly, Robson is keen to hold on to his Dutch star when his contract expires at the end of

future for his family.

In the meantime, however, he is excited about the prospect of following in the footsteps of stars like Liam Brady, Andy Gray and Peter Shilton, past winners of the Player of the Year award.

But who would Frans himself nominate? "At first I thought of the top clubs like Liverpool and Aston Villa and players like Graeme Souness, Dennis Mortimer and Gordon Cowans," he says, "but there were other names in my mind too."

"At Middlesbrough, for example, they have two outstanding players in David Armstrong and Craig Johnston. But because their team

is only around the middle of the League they will struggle to get votes.

"In the end I voted for Gordon Cowans and I picked his teammate Gary Shaw as Young Player of the Year."

'Extra pressure on the winner' — McDermott

"VOTE for Frans? After the way he threw mud at me last season!" Terry McDermott, Players' Player of the Year and the Football Writers' Footballer of the Year laughed as he recalled the famous incident at Anfield.

He was just about to take a penalty against Ipswich when Thijssen hurled mud at the ball. Professionalism? It's accepted practice in Holland...

McDermott bears no grudges, of course, and acknowledges that the Dutch master has a tremendous chance to succeed him when the players meet in London the day after the League Cup Final next month.

Voting forms have gone out and McDermott was undecided about his final choice.

"Frans obviously comes into the running. Anyone playing for Ipswich is going to be in the limelight. They've been on television almost every week so I've been able to study him closely."

"He was in top form against us at Anfield this season, although he faded a bit in the second-half at Portman Road. There's no doubt about his quality, though. I particularly like the way Frans goes past people and turns opponents without any effort."

'Awards'

"Dennis Mortimer is another candidate — not just because he's a mate and we used to play in the same school team. His Villa teammate Gary Shaw must be in the running for both awards — Players' Player and Young Player of the Year."

"West Brom's Bryan Robson was unlucky not to have won something last year and he'll figure in the votes again."

If Thijssen wins the award he will become the first overseas star to carry off such an individual award.

"Overall foreign players have brightened up our game. Frans... Arnold Muhren... Ossie Ardiles... they've been good for English football and vice versa," McDermott continues.

"Whoever carries off the award will be one of the proudest men in England. I know I was. It's one of the greatest honours I'll ever win."

"The winner will find more pressure on himself, as I did. I was expected to pull out a little extra in every game... to do things I'd never done before."

"Opposing fans look at you more closely. I've enjoyed it. My only regret is that now, as the forms are being filled in again, my own form and that of Liverpool has tailed off."

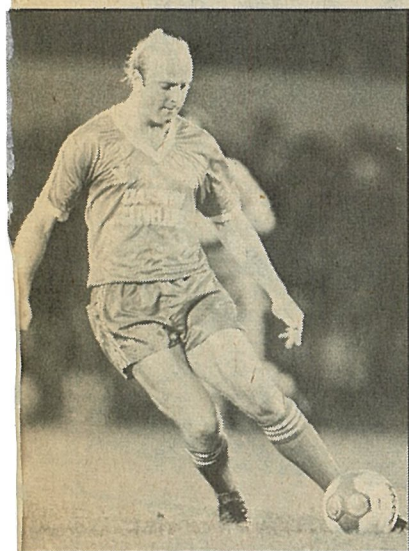
This year's voting promises to be closer than ever. Aston Villa's Dennis Mortimer will be up there, so will Arsenal's evergreen John Hollins.

It's unlikely that any Liverpool player will figure high in the vote. This, in a year when they may 'only' win the League and European Cups!



Aston Villa's Gordon Cowans (above) is Frans' choice as Player of the Year. But Ipswich's midfield star was also impressed by Middlesbrough's David Armstrong (left). Ossie Ardiles (right) was the first imported player to make an impression in the PFA Player of the Year awards. Now Thijssen looks all set to become the first foreigner to gain the coveted award next month.

Terry McDermott receives last year's award (below).



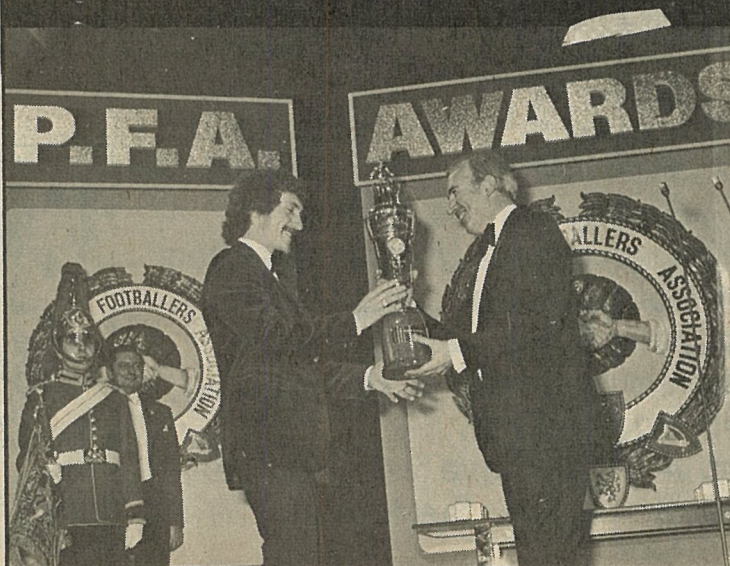
PREVIOUS WINNERS

Players' Player

Terry McDermott, Andy Gray, Pat Jennings, Colin Todd, Norman Hunter, Peter Shilton, Liam Brady.

Young Player

Glenn Hoddle, Andy Gray, Peter Barnes, Mervyn Day, Kevin Beattie, Tony Woodcock, Cyrille Regis.



the current season. The pair have had several discussions without reaching agreement and it is no secret that PSV Eindhoven and other clubs are keen to take him home.

But Frans had good news for Ipswich fans when he told SHOOT: "I would like to stay with the club and sign a new two-year contract. I hope to sort things out with Mr Robson."

"It is not just a question of money, because even if I could earn more in Holland I would want to stay in England. The football is better, there is more atmosphere because the crowds are bigger and it is more enjoyable."

The Ipswich boss has promised Thijssen that if he stays for a further two years he will then be a free agent. This will enable him to negotiate a deal in his own country and at the same time secure the

FLASH GORDON SAVED THE EARTH. TM NOW YOU CAN SAVE HIM.



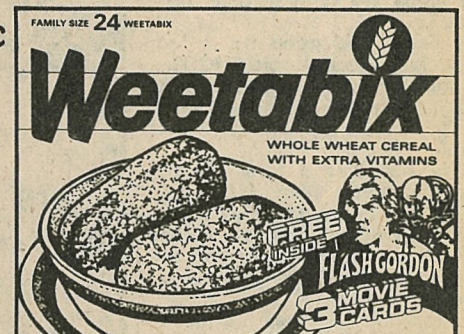
NOT ACTUAL SIZE

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special Family and Giant sized packets of
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But you've got to move fast, because
the whole universe is after them.

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UNBEATABIX

'I've made too many mistakes'



JANUARY 31 was our D Day — for disaster!

That was the day bottom of the table Leicester City dealt us a double blow from which we'll have trouble recovering.

Firstly, they beat us 2-1 at Anfield to end our record run of 85 home games without defeat — and secondly, they severely dented our hopes of retaining the Championship for the third season in a row.

Now, it's not just a question of Liverpool regaining form and winning away as well as at home, we need Ipswich Town and Aston Villa to each hit a bad spell and drop at least four points apiece.

It's disappointing we're not scheduled to play either of them before the season ends.

But we're not giving up hope of hanging on to that title. Stranger things have happened.

For instance, a few days before Leicester shattered our record, they lost to Exeter City, a mid-table Third Division club, in an F.A. Cup replay at St. James' Park. Exeter then lost by the same scoreline of 3-1 at home to Hull City, bottom of their League.

Prestigious

Despite having an accountancy background — although I wasn't once a bank clerk as stated in a recent article about me in the prestigious Sunday Times — I can't begin to understand those results.

So what's the explanation for Liverpool's lapse from a high level of consistency? How could we follow two fine away wins — against Manchester City in the first-leg of the League cup Semi-Finals, and Norwich City in the League — by allowing Everton to hand us an F.A. Cup k.o. at Goodison and then lose to relegation candidates Leicester?

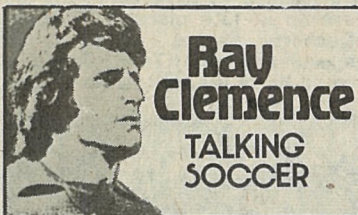
It's all down to something I thought could never happen to Liverpool with its strong squad of quality players. Regular readers will recall my early warning that other

'Leicester's first goal — a real Clemence clanger'

clubs contesting for honours could find themselves struggling if injuries sidelined first choice players and they lacked reserves with the requisite skill and experience.

Whereas in past seasons players drafted into the Liverpool side have settled in and we've continued to play to the usual rhythm, this term they've found it difficult to blend.

This is not meant as a criticism.



They've not lacked skill or been reluctant to give 100 per cent. It's just they haven't been able to fit in so easily.

Corner-stone of the Liverpool side is our back-four, not only for defence, but because many of our attacks are initiated from there.

We've suffered most in that area. In the past three months, seven players have been used in the four positions. Richard Money, Colin Irwin and Avi Cohen have been called upon most in that department.

I accept my share of the responsibility, having made too many uncustomed mistakes. I take the blame for seven of the three dozen goals we've conceded, two of them in a match we won.

One of my most elementary errors was responsible for Leicester getting the equaliser after we'd gone ahead in the first-half, ironically from an own-goal scored by Alan Young.

The Leicester left-winger sent across a ball which curved away

from the goal, regarded by all 'keepers as amongst the hardest to deal with.

You have to come off your line for it. Stay put and an incoming forward has a lot of goal to shoot into.

As I ran out and jumped I knew I was all wrong. I got only one hand to the ball, but managed to knock it down to one side.

Unfortunately as I landed I slipped, and before I could recover Pat Byrne kicked it into the net.

A real Clemence clanger.

Their second goal, the winner, was the result of a defensive mistake between Phil Thompson and Colin Irwin, who got into a mix-up on the edge of our penalty box and lost possession. Jim Melrose struck home with a shot I couldn't get near enough to save.

Killer blow

That winning goal was followed by an even rarer sight: that of eleven Liverpool heads dropping as we realised it was a killer blow and we'd never recover.

Full credit to Leicester, a young, hard-working side who despite that unexpected morale-booster will still find it hard to avoid relegation.

As we trooped off Anfield, what hurt hardest was not the ending of our record run but having played so far below the level our fans have come to expect.

Bob Paisley knew there was no point in lashing us, for we're our biggest critics.

All he said was: "Well, it had to happen sometime. You didn't deserve to win because you didn't play." His assistant, Joe Fagan, was even more terse: "You got what you deserved."

It was on the Monday morning, at the inquest, that we came in for the full verbal treatment and were once again reminded of the basic elements of the Liverpool style: to keep things simple, keep possession and keep going.

Our below-par performances

Leicester's Pat Byrne nips in to capitalise on a mistake by Ray to send his club on their way to a famous victory at Anfield.

have dented confidence so much that instead of doing things instinctively we're thinking too hard about them. Consequently we're allowing the opposition time in which to close down spaces or intercept passes.

Every effort is now being made to get us back into the old routine, to start that run of good results which will give us a chance of overhauling Ipswich and Villa, providing they strike the barren streaks which often affect sides on the last lap.

This Saturday we're away to Brighton at the Goldstone Ground, where last season we enjoyed a tremendous 4-1 win in atrocious conditions.

Like Leicester, Alan Mullery's men are fighting for their First Division lives, and will have taken heart from Leicester's feat at Anfield.

Here's looking forward to something to celebrate in London afterwards, when my wife and I will be attending a dinner given by the London Branch of the Liverpool Supporters' Club in honour of Steve Heighway in his testimonial year.

They did me proud at a similar function held last year, providing me with another magnificent memory to savour when my playing days are done.

Such marvellous fans must be rewarded with at least one trophy!

The amazing

LAST season Crystal Palace were top of Division One. Hailed as the Team of the 80's. Everything looked bright as their players collected international honours. Now Palace are doomed for Division Two. The manager and most of the back-room staff have gone. Chairman Raymond Bloye has sold his majority shareholding. Few clubs in the history of soccer have seen such a turnover and changeabout. Here, we trace the downfall of the Selhurst Park club.

1980

JANUARY

Palace enter the New Year in ninth place ... Although beaten by Swansea in the F.A. Cup, they are undefeated in the League during the month.

FEBRUARY

The warning bells sound; one League point from four games, with just one goal ... Palace were to win just three more matches all season ... David Swindlehurst goes to Derby on loan.

MARCH

Palace recover with two wins, two draws and one defeat.

APRIL

One win from six games.

MAY

Palace lose 4-0 to Forest to end the season in 13th place ... Tommy Docherty leaves Q.P.R. amid speculation that Terry Venables could be returning to Loftus Road

... The Doc gets his job back. "We have settled our differences," says chairman Jim Gregory ... meanwhile, Tony Book and Malcolm Allison are given a vote of confidence at Manchester City.

JUNE

As England are in Italy for the European Championship, Arsenal make Clive Allen Britain's sixth £1m footballer. The former Q.P.R. striker signs a contract that, Terry Neill says "will keep him at Highbury for a very long time." ... Palace confirm they are open to offers for Kenny Sansom.

JULY

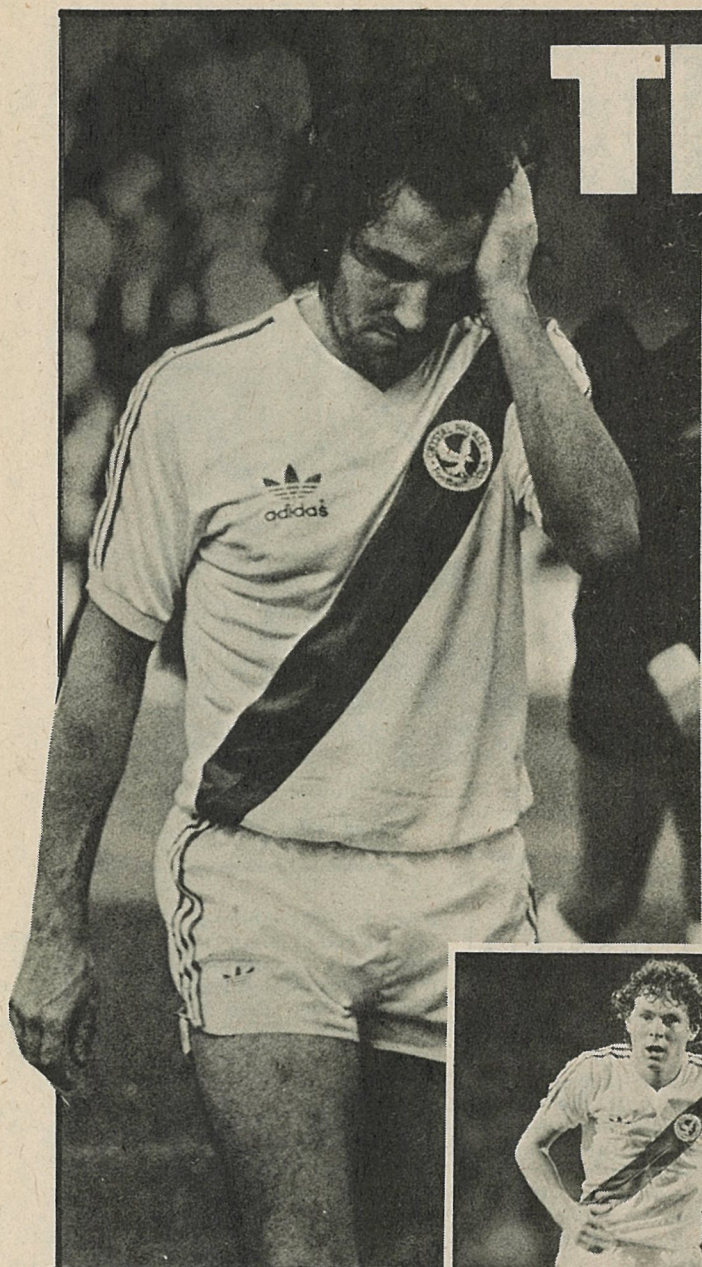
Clive Allen reports for pre-season training with Arsenal. Gunners fans visualise an S.A.S. strike force — Sunderland, Allen and Stapleton.

AUGUST

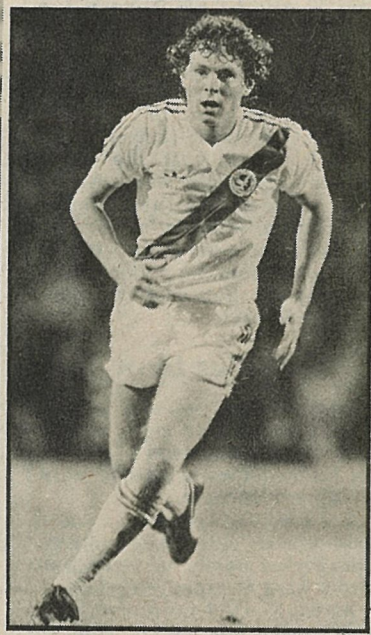
Clive Allen makes his debut for Arsenal and The Gunners lose 2-0 to Rangers ... a couple of days later they go down 2-1 to Aberdeen ... Wales striker Ian Walsh is placed on the transfer list following a contractual dispute ... Crystal Palace start their pre-season friendlies without Kenny Sansom ... After just 62 days at Highbury Clive Allen joins Crystal Palace in a deal involving Sansom and goalkeeper Paul Barron ... On their debuts, Palace lose 3-0 at Liverpool while Arsenal win 1-0 at West Brom. Albion manager Ron Atkinson says: "I'd rather have faced Arsenal with Clive Allen than Kenny Sansom." ... Vince Hilaire is sent-off against Spurs for pushing the referee after a foul ... Allen scores a hat-trick in the 5-2 defeat of Middlesbrough ... At Manchester City Joe Corrigan says: "I don't think Malcolm Allison should ever have come back to this club."

SEPTEMBER

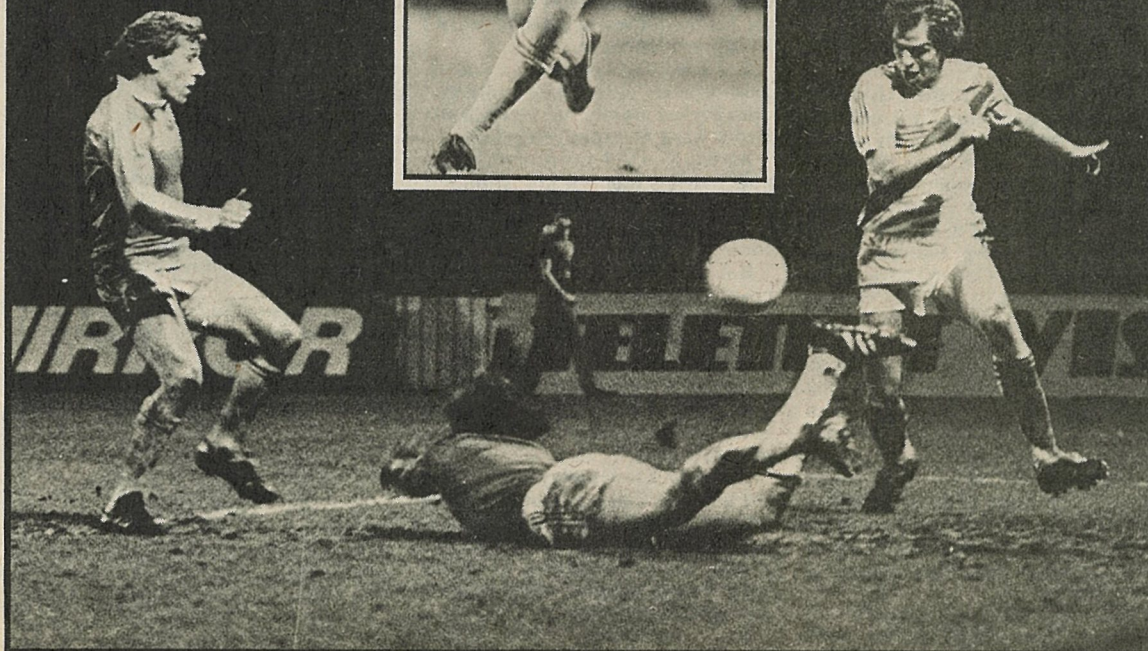
Palace beat Bolton 5-1 on aggregate in the League Cup ... Clive Allen has a goal disallowed at Coventry when referee Derek Webb thinks his shot went outside the netting; television proved otherwise ... Four Palace players — Terry Fenwick, Billy Gilbert, Vince Hilaire and Clive Allen — are in the England Under-21 team co-managed by Terry Venables that beats Norway 4-0 ... After 2-1



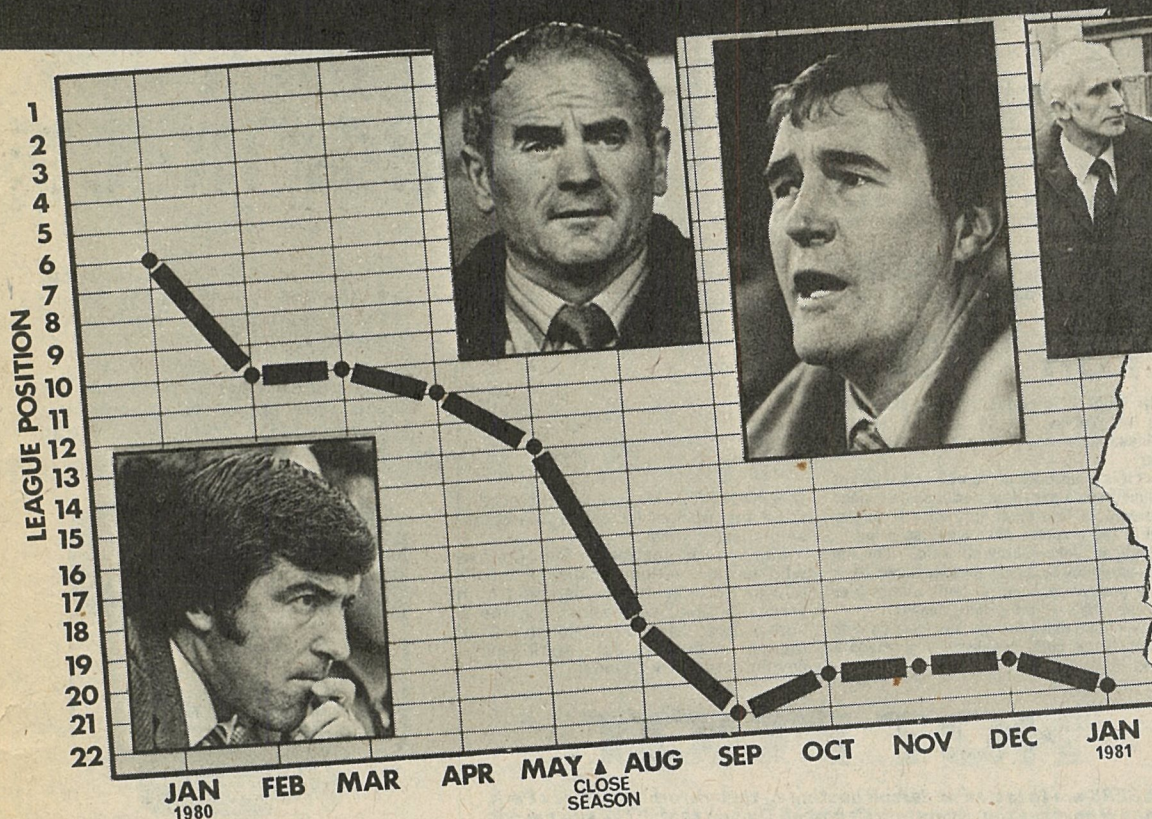
ABOVE ... Gerry Francis sums up Palace's plight.
RIGHT ... £1m Clive Allen has had a stormy time at Selhurst Park.



BELOW ... Phil Boyer scores for Man. City against Palace.



decline of Palace



The men at the centre of the Palace power struggle (from left): Terry Venables, Ernie Walley, Malcolm Allison, Ron Noades, club secretary Alan Leather and Ray Bloye.

home defeat by Ipswich, Palace are bottom of the First Division. Venables says: "Now we'll see what I'm made of." ... Palace say they're interested in fielding a Rugby League team following Fulham's success ... Paul Barron is dropped for the League Cup-tie against Spurs. John Burridge says he is reluctant to play until his pay dispute is settled. Barron is reinstated and plays a blinder in the 0-0 draw. Burridge is suspended for two weeks ... Glenn Hoddle and Jerry Murphy sent-off as Spurs beat Palace 3-1 in League Cup replay.

OCTOBER

Tommy Docherty sacked by Q.P.R. — again ... A couple of days later Manchester City dismiss Malcolm Allison ... At Palace, with seven defeats in eight League games, Terry Venables says: "I've not had a period like this as a player or a manager." ... When asked about the possibility of joining Q.P.R., Venables says: "There's no smoke without fire." ... Venables decides to stay at Palace ... The next day he leaves for Rangers following a disagreement with the Palace board ... Palace move for Blackburn's Howard Kendall ... Assistant-manager Allan Harris, chief scout Arnie Warren and youth coach George Graham leave Palace to rejoin Venables at Rangers ... Kendall turns down the Palace offer. They move for Watford's Graham Taylor, but the Watford chairman refuses them permission to speak to him ... Ernie Walley appointed caretaker-

manager at Selhurst Park and Palace beat Leicester 2-1 in his first game ... Chairman Ray Bloye says he'll give Walley "every chance" to prove himself ... Palace beat Southampton thanks to a Mike Flanagan hat-trick ... After losing at Leeds, Walley drops Vince Hilaire and Clive Allen; Palace draw at Norwich ... Ray Bloye says Ernie Walley will be given "another two or three weeks" in charge ... Walley is then appointed caretaker-manager for the rest of the season.

NOVEMBER

Palace beat Manchester United 1-0 ... Despite transfer requests from Gerry Francis, Vince Hilaire and Jerry Murphy, with rumblings of discontent from Clive Allen, Bloye denies there is any crisis at the club ... Ian Walsh comes off the transfer list ... Rumours strengthen that Clive Allen is poised to leave.

DECEMBER

Malcolm Allison is back at Palace. Walley says: "If anyone else had come, I'd have been a bit put out to say the least." They will be joint team-managers ... Next day Big Mal is confirmed as team-manager with Walley his assistant. "We need a man of Malcolm's experience," says Bloye ... Allison plays midfielder Gerry Francis as sweeper as Palace lose 3-0 to Nottingham Forest ... Palace announce a profit of £1,019,145 ... Allison sets Palace a target of 28 points from their 21 games remaining ... They beat Norwich 4-1, which was to be the only

victory under Allison ... Mike Flanagan, Terry Fenwick and John Burridge join Q.P.R. in a £350,000 deal. Flanagan cost Palace £750,000 from Charlton the previous year ... Fulham chairman Ernie Clay makes a bid to take-over Palace. "Just rumours," says Bloye ... Allison asks Bloye for reassurance regarding his future as fears grow that the chairman will sell his majority shareholding ... Palace and Brighton discuss the possibility of sharing a stadium near Gatwick Airport ... Gerry Francis accepts the post of player/coach.



The new Palace manager — Dario Gradi.

1981 JANUARY

Malcolm Allison announces £1m Clive Allen can leave. "He isn't happy and has asked to go, so I've put him on the list." Allen has played 18 League games, scoring 8 goals for Palace ... Terry Venables declares his interest in buying Allen again. "I don't have the cash, but I'm willing to offer an exchange deal." ... Palace go out of the F.A. Cup losing 4-0 to Manchester City — Allison's previous club ... Allison is to stay on as manager until the end of the season, without a contract. "I shall be delighted to work here for as long as I'm wanted." ... Wimbledon chairman Ron Noades emerges as favourite to take over Palace ... Chris Wright, head of the Fans' Action Committee calls for the right to buy their own club. "There is sufficient interest to raise the £600,000." ... Ian Walsh and David Fry ask for transfers ... Newspaper article reveals that Raymond Bloye and four Palace directors own the company that is responsible for the catering at Selhurst Park ... Bloye denies take-over rumours as "completely unfounded. There is nothing going on." ... The next day Noades spells out his plans for Palace and Wimbledon to share the same stadium ... Later in the week Bloye says the deal is off. Palace captain Jim Cannon appeals for "something to be sorted out quickly, for the sake of the club." ... Next day Bloye does an about-turn and the deal is on again ... Malcolm Allison leaves by "mutual consent" after a chat with new supremo Ron Noades. Wimbledon boss Dario Gradi moves in at Palace ... Coaches Len Julians and Phil Holder also leave Palace ... Bristol City's Mike Kelly becomes Gradi's assistant ... Noades officially resigns as Wimbledon chairman, and becomes managing director of Palace. Five Palace directors are axed as the new consortium take over at Selhurst Park ... Gradi says Clive Allen can go, but unsettled Peter Nicholas must stay ...

SHOOT's boost for Les

A MENTION in SHOOT a year ago was just the boost Birmingham City youngster Les Phillips needed at the time.

Seeing his name in his favourite soccer magazine made Les (below) even more determined than ever to do well.

"The feature was in NEWS DESK," says Les. "Now I want to become a big enough



name to be asked to fill in a Focus form." Lambeth born and bred, Les was spotted by a Birmingham scout playing for Chelsea Youth against West Ham.

He was invited to St. Andrews for a trial and signed on as an apprentice.

Now 18 and a full pro, Les is making progress at City and challenging for a first team place.

He's also in line for an England Youth cap in the Mini-World Cup this year.

Out of 38 selected for trials recently, Les was among five chosen to return... four from Birmingham.

Les, an ardent Manchester United fan, owes a great deal to City's second team coach Derek Jefferson and youth coach Keith Bradley.

All on SHOOT wish Les well. We'll be watching his career with added interest... and waiting to send out that Focus form.

FOR SALE

JOHN McALLE is currently in the shop window at Wolves, as he will be leaving Molineux upon completing his current contract.

But it is a measure of his ability that he has produced some excellent performances since his return to first team duty after a lengthy spell in the reserves after breaking a leg.

Manager John Barnwell said: "I'm not really surprised by John's performances. He is a fine professional and he will always give his best whatever the circumstances."

"I just hope that I can get him fixed up with a really good club, because he deserves a break."

Halliday's dream start

BRUCE HALLIDAY is fast making a name for himself in Newcastle's rejuvenated team.

Central defender Halliday had a nightmare start to his career in the televised 6-0 thrashing at Chelsea.

He was relegated to the reserves where a string of impressive performances — and an injury to Kenny Mitchell — gave him another chance.

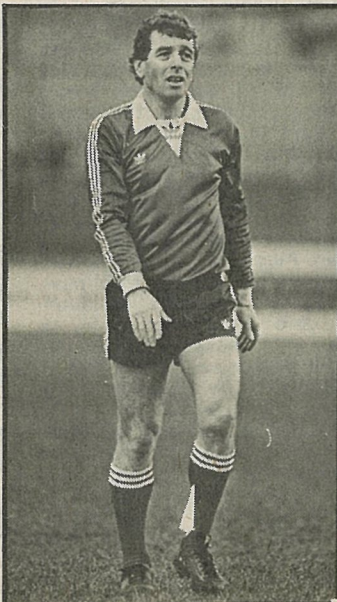
He has taken it with both hands, and his form in recent weeks has swiftly made him a big favourite with the fans at St. James' Park.

Halliday says he's pleased by his dream start, but gives much of the credit to the experienced Stuart Boam who plays alongside him.

"He's fantastic," says Halliday. "Stuart never stops talking and giving me advice throughout the games. I can't help but learn from him."

A SCOTTISH-born striker, now playing in Belgium, is the latest to declare his intention of playing for the Republic of Ireland.

Twenty-three-year-old James Gillespie, who joined Ghent from Queen's Park, qualifies for Eire because both his parents were born in Donegal.



Cally pops Cork

FORMER Liverpool star Ian Callaghan is the latest in a long line of former stars to join a League of Ireland club.

"Cally," recently released by Swansea City, has joined rejuvenated Cork United on a match to match basis. His debut for his new club away to Home Farm meant that the amateurs had their best gate of the season.

Ian joins a list that includes George Best, Geoff Hurst, Rodney Marsh, Bobby Charlton and Terry Venables, all of whom had brief spells with Eire clubs.

THE ANGLO-Italian Tournament will go ahead this season despite the sudden death of its founder the organiser Gigi Peronace just after Christmas.

The British clubs taking part are Bridgend and Poole from the Southern League, and Bobby Moore's Oxford City from the Isthmian League.



HERO PAUL ALLEN SHRUGS OFF A NIGHTMARE

PAUL ALLEN knows all about the ups and downs of a professional footballer... even at the tender age of 18.

Last May, Paul, aged 17, was the toast of East London. He was the youngest player to appear in a Wembley Final, West Ham beating Arsenal 1-0.

● SNOOKER is the popular and relaxing sport for most of Ipswich's Championship-chasing team.

Star man is goalkeeper Paul Cooper, who faces a serious challenge for his title as Portman Road Champion from Frans Thijssen, who said the game is hardly ever played in Holland, Paul Mariner, Alan Brazil, John Wark, Russell Osman and Terry Butcher.

HOT FOOT

RANGERS are to install undersoil heating to their refurbished Ibrox Park, Glasgow next season. Secretary Campbell Ogilvie said: "The system will be nine inches below the turf and should protect the surface from any frost. We haven't decided whether the system will be electric or hot water heating. One thing is certain, though — we hope never to use the 'match off' signs again."

It will cost around £60,000 and Rangers have been looking closely at Easter Road, home of Hibs, and rugby's home of Murrayfield, Edinburgh, where undersoil heating is used.

KERRY DIXON, a 19-year-old striker who has been showing his goal potential with Reading this season, was once at Spurs.

The Luton-born centre-forward was a part-time pro with the White Hart Lane club in 1978-79. Reading got him from Southern League Dunstable last July and they had to pay £20,000 to sign him. Dunstable will also get ten per cent of any future transfer fee.

Dixon, who once scored 13 in a 16-1 victory in a Chiltern Youth League game, notched 52 goals for Dunstable last season.

Briefly...

● Steve Heighway hopes to have an All-Ireland XI play Liverpool in his testimonial game at Anfield on March 31st.

● Anthony May of Rowden Hill, Chippenham, was Bristol Rovers' mascot at the game with Bristol City.

Eight-year-old Anthony is keen on sports but says he prefers playing football and would like to play in goal, so following in the footsteps of his uncle Jack Kelsey, the ex-Arsenal and Wales keeper.

● West Brom got value for money when they spent £5,000 on Sutton striker Barry Cowdrill.

The Birmingham-born Cowdrill has given some sparkling displays for Albion at full-back. He joined The Hawthorns club in April, 1979.

● Hearts winger Malcolm Robertson, 29, has been released from Tynecastle to start a fresh career with Toronto Blizzards.

● Another young Australian has come to England in a bid to find soccer fame. He is 16 year-old goalkeeper Tony Franken, who has joined Wolves for a three-week training stint.

● Watford's Ken Jackett, the defender chosen by Ron Greenwood as London's Young Player of the Month, also plays golf, pool and table tennis — and is good at them all!

● Norwich boss Ken Brown is hoping to see the best of his club's Yugoslav capture Drazen Muzinic.

He said: "He is now more conversant with our language and his family are settled. It should only be a matter of time before his performances reflect the quality player he is."

● The new indoor training hall at Lincoln City's Sincil Bank stadium has been laid with a hard-wearing but soft synthetic surface to ensure that Lincoln players — and local sports organisations — can train in comfort and safety.

● Tommy Traynor, former Hearts and Dundee United winger, has been appointed coach of Cowdenbeath.

● In the first move of its kind in this country, a group of referees has arranged a legal expenses insurance policy to cover its members in case of attack by a player or a spectator during a game or while travelling to or from the game. The policy will allow the referee to pursue his rights in a civil court or to take out a private prosecution against his attacker.

The Basildon & District Society of Association Football Referees has arranged the policy for its 90 members with DAS Legal Expenses Insurance Company which specialises in legal expenses insurance.

● Watford defender Mick Henderson has been transfer listed at his own request. The right-back lost his place when Pat Rice was signed from Arsenal, and manager Graham Taylor agreed to circularise his name.

NEWS DESK

Compiled by
BILL DAY



BRADFORD CITY want to play football on Sundays. Chairman Bob Martin wants the club to play more home matches on Sundays than Saturdays. Bradford's attendances have been as low as 2,053 this season, averaging 3,000 most home games.

Then came heartache. It all started to go wrong three months later when Allen appeared for a second time at Wembley in the Charity Shield match with Liverpool.

Allen strained a groin in pre-season training. The injury took nearly three months to heal.

Allen, the England Youth captain, was finally passed fit but couldn't get his place back.

He says: "This has done me the world of good. Things were probably going too well. I'd won a Cup medal and I was captain of my country."

"This injury and the fact that I couldn't get back in the side has brought me down to earth."

"I'm sure that it has made me a better person and a better player. Suddenly I was playing in front of 15 people for the reserves."

Now Allen is fit and well and looking for the top again. He's still eligible to play for England Youth. He's just praying that his run of bad luck is behind him.

WEATHER BEATEN

SEVERAL Football League clubs are now exploring the possibility of ripping up their pitches to install a drainage system which will guarantee them reliable playing conditions in any weather.

The clubs were among scores represented at a recent Football League Secretaries', Managers' and Coaches' Association meeting which heard of a Swiss system which can beat rain, snow or drought.

Peter Schmidlin, managing director of Cellsystem, a patented system of irrigation and drainage, claims that postponements caused by rain need never occur.

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HONEYMOON 50 YEARS LATE

SIR MATT BUSBY and his wife, Jean, have just returned from "honeymoon" in the Seychelles, 50 years after their wedding.

Sir Matt, 71-year-old Life President and former manager of Manchester United, never had time for a honeymoon because he was too busy playing football.

Better late than never.



CUP minnows Altrincham didn't leave Anfield completely empty-handed after their 4-1 defeat by Liverpool.

When Altrincham were awarded a penalty Liverpool full-back Alan Kennedy turned to The Robins "spot-kick" Graham Heathcote and jibed:

"Bet you can't stick the ball past him," and pointed at Ray Clemence.

"Bet you a fiver I can," challenged Heathcote, who calmly slotted the ball past the England 'keeper, and collected his five pounds outside the dressing rooms after the game.

F.A. BAN

THE Football Association have banned Billingham Synthonia from the F.A. Trophy for two years for a serious offence in a Qualifying Round against Goolle Town last November. The Drybrough Northern League club have also been fined £50.

Billingham were expelled from the competition, for fielding an unregistered player and warned of extra punishment for the more serious "crime" of playing him under a wrong name.

The F.A. took into account Billingham's previous unblemished record when the full challenge committee considered the case.

ANTIC'S MOVING

FORMER Yugoslavian international Raddi Antic (right) could be on his way across the Atlantic.

He has been transfer-listed by Luton Town after failing to gain a regular first team place and proving too expensive a luxury to hold in reserve.

Although he is well-liked at Kenilworth Road, where the players hold his ball skills in high regard, he has failed to knit into the team's system.

And with his skills and experience he would be ideal for any NASL side looking for panache and individualism to help draw the crowds.

ARCHIE GEMMILL, Birmingham's Scottish international midfielder star, blames "lapses in concentration" for the St. Andrews club's mediocre form since Christmas.



HOW many former players are now secretary of their old club?

They are very few and far between. But one who qualifies is Malcolm Starkey of Shrewsbury Town.

He was a member of the Shrewsbury side in the 1960's and since then he has taken over the day to day running of the Gay Meadow side.

Starkey took particular delight recently when the visit of Ipswich Town in the F.A. Cup attracted a gate of 18,000 and there was little or no trouble due to the smooth running operation set up by his "team" at the club.

Kelly's heroic goal

EAST STIRLING goalkeeper Charlie Kelly will not forget the day he scored a goal against Ayr United, at Somerset Park. His 100-yard, wind-assisted kick, soared past the opposing 'keeper Stuart Rennie to earn a much-needed point in a 3-3 draw. Said Kelly: "I couldn't believe it at first but when the bounce beat Stuart it was a great feeling."

Trevor Cherry's Benefit

LEEDS UNITED's sterling defender Trevor Cherry has been awarded a testimonial next season.

This is just reward for a player, who despite winning 27 caps for England, has never truly won the recognition he deserves.

Cherry joined Leeds from Huddersfield in 1972 for £99,000, and recently played his 400th game for the Elland Road club.

Cherry, now 33, is playing so well that his manager Allan Clarke says: "There can be few better central defenders around at the moment, and I feel he should still be playing for England. The number six position is clearly his best and he seems much happier there than at full-back, where he played most of his games before I came here."

Previous Leeds beneficiaries have been Jack Charlton, Billy Bremner, Norman Hunter, Paul Reaney, Paul Madeley, Johnny Giles, Peter Lorimer, Eddie Gray and David Harvey.



STAR SHINE

DARREN McDONOUGH is one of the more recent youngsters to come through the Oldham youth team and stake his claim for a regular first team place.

Though only 18, Athletic boss Jimmy Frizzell pitched Darren in for his debut in the tough game against Notts County just before Christmas and he scored.

The local lad — just down the road in Manchester was his birthplace — grabbed his chance and has had other first team outings since.

First spotted playing for Oldham Schools. With emphasis on youth in the Athletic side Darren could play a big part in Oldham's future.

TOMMY DOCHERTY, then manager of Queens Park Rangers, never rated Mick Walsh, the 26-year-old former Blackpool, Everton and Loftus Road striker.

They were miserable times for Walsh, once rated as one of the most promising strikers in the League.

Now, his life has turned full circle. He is scoring goals regularly for FC Porto and is the toast of the Portuguese club who have won more than 8,000 trophies in their illustrious history.

Mick, and his wife Christine, live in a luxurious beach house and he spends much of his spare time sea fishing.

'No Panic' says United chairman

THERE's been an unprecedented amount of criticism of Manchester United manager Dave Sexton in the northern editions of the newspapers in recent weeks.

This follows a disastrous season which has seen United go out of all three Cup competitions in the first or second rounds, and has seen them slip to a moderate mid-table position in the League.

United fans point to the fact that in four seasons at Old Trafford Sexton has yet to win a trophy in spite of spending almost four million pounds in strengthening his squad. His tactics too have been slammed as "dull" and not adventurous enough for the football connoisseurs at Old Trafford.

But United chairman Martin Edwards is emphatic that there won't be "any panic measures" by the United board . . . and he refutes suggestions that there's a crisis at the club:

"Surely a crisis is when you are threatened by relegation? Manchester City were in a crisis before Malcolm Allison left. . . but there's no chance of us being relegated."

But Edwards does sympathise with the growing numbers of disenchanted supporters:

"I'm a fan myself, and I admit that I've not enjoyed several games this season. But I think that when things aren't going right for a team you tend to lose confidence and play defensively."

"But I can assure the fans that we are all well aware of the situation . . . I've talked to Dave Sexton and he understands too."

"I admit it's been a very disappointing season . . . but we can still salvage a place in Europe from the League, and the last thing we must do is to start panicking and thrashing about."

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*1977 Man. Utd. 2, Liverpool 1..... 200ft
Also col sound 200ft
*1976 Southampton 1, Man. Utd. 0..... 200ft
Also col sound 200ft
*1975 West Ham 2, Fulham 0..... 200ft
Also col sound 200ft
*1974 Liverpool 3, N'castle 0..... 200ft
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*1973 Sunderland 1, Leeds 0..... 200ft
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1973 Semi: Leeds 1, Wolves 0..... 100ft
1972 Leeds 1, Arsenal 0..... 100ft
Also col sound 200ft

*1971 Arsenal 2, Liverpool 1..... 200ft
Also col sound 200ft

- 1970 Chelsea 2, Leeds 2..... 100ft
1970 Chelsea 2, Leeds 1..... 100ft
1969 Man City 1, Leicester 0..... 100ft
1968 WBA 1, Everton 0..... 200ft
1967 Spurs 2, Chelsea 1..... 200ft
1966 Everton 3, Sheff. Wed. 2..... 300ft
1965 Liverpool 2, Leeds 1..... 200ft
1964 West Ham 3, Preston 2..... 200ft
1963 Man. Utd 3, Leicester 1..... 200ft
*1962 Spurs 3, Burnley 1..... 100ft
*1961 Spurs, Leicester..... 100ft
Also col sound 100ft
1960 Wolves 3, Blackburn 0..... 100ft
1959 Nott'ham F. 2, Luton 1..... 100ft
1958 Bolton 2, Man. Utd. 0..... 100ft
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Also col sound 400ft
*1978 Holland 2, Italy 1..... 200ft/400ft
Also col sound 400ft
*1978 Holland 2 West Germany 2..... 200ft/400ft
Also col sound 400ft
*1978 Brazil 2, Italy 1..... 200ft/400ft
Also col sound 400ft
*1978 Best Goals of tournament..... 200ft/400ft
*1978 Scotland v Wales/Czecho..... 400ft
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*1974 W. Germany 4, Sweden 2..... 200ft
*1974 Holland 2, Brazil 0..... 200ft
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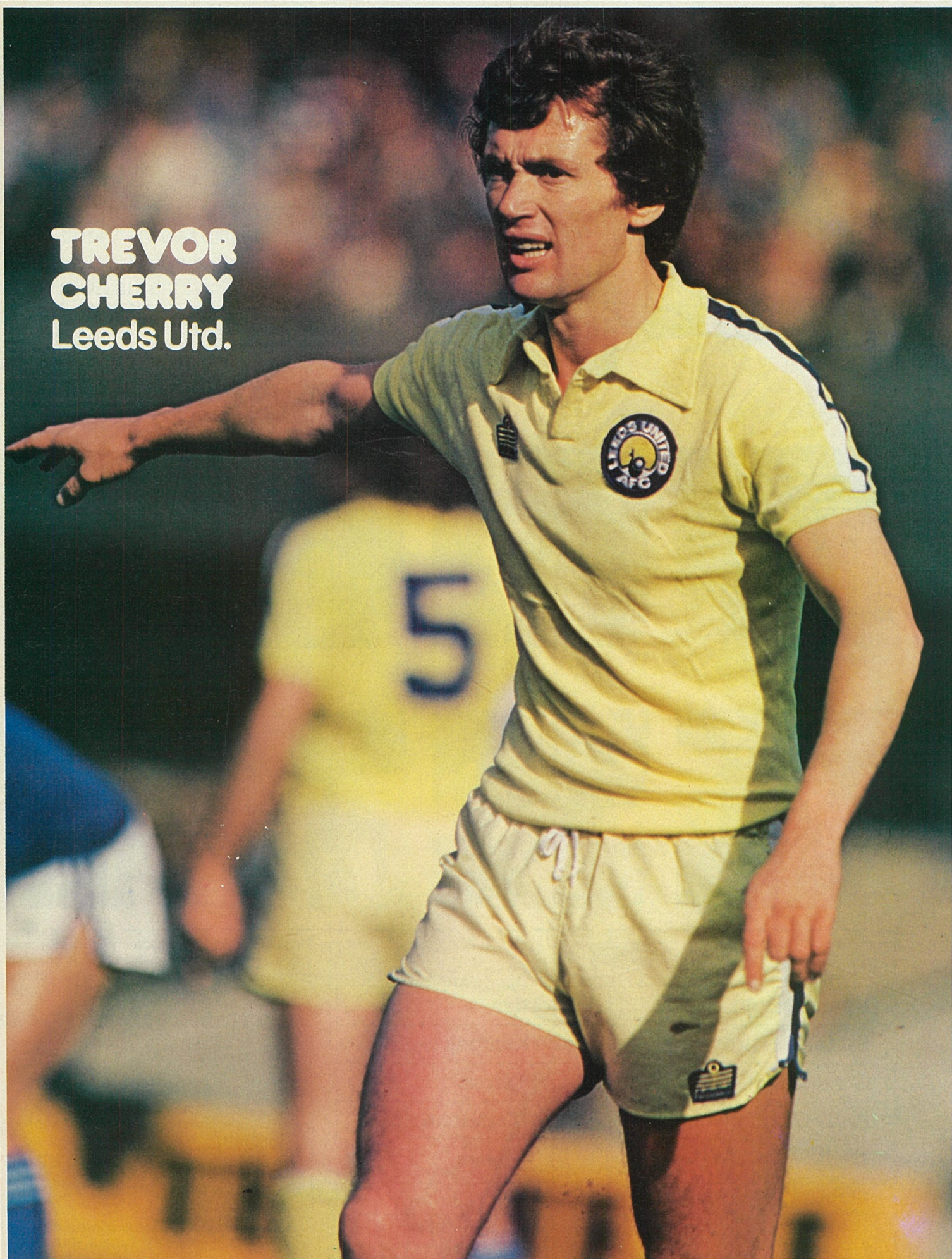
1976 Rangers 3, Hearts 1..... 200ft/400ft

Also 400ft b/w sound

*1973 Rangers 3, Celtic 2..... 200ft

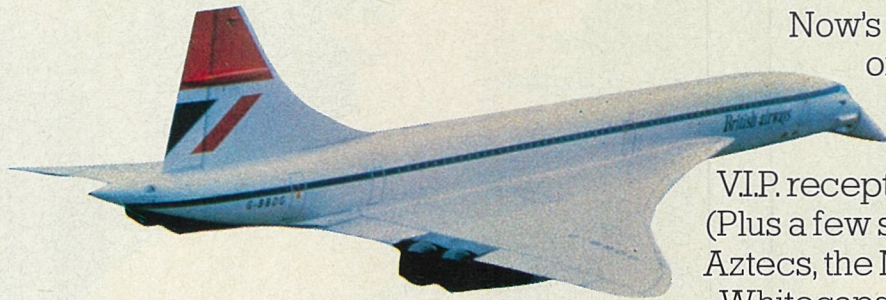
*1972 Celtic 6, Hibs 1..... 100ft

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SHOOT!

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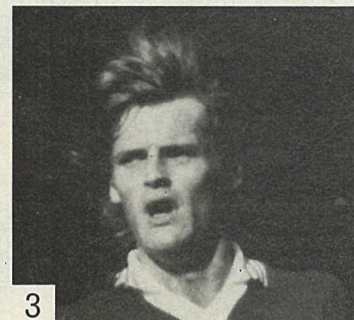
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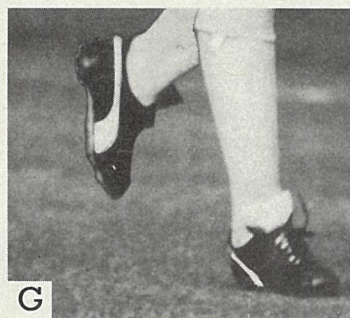
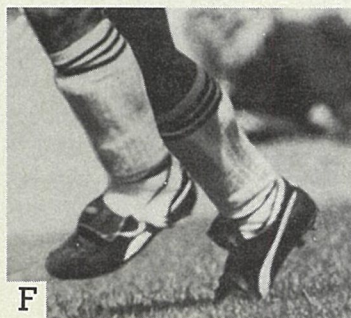
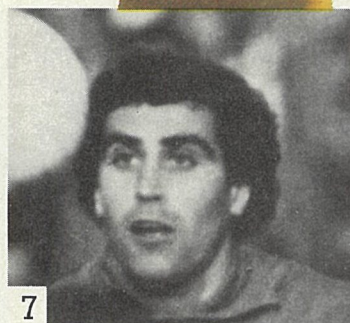
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SHOOT!

**Ray
Wilkins**
WRITES
FOR YOU



"Roger Palmer grabs a late equaliser for City in our League meeting at Old Trafford earlier this season."



'Don't compare us with yesterday's heroes'

AS United prepare for the much-awaited derby against City at Maine Road, I have a plea for our fans: forget Bobby Charlton, Denis Law and George Best. We've come in for some criticism this season — some of it justified, some not. I happen to believe the present United team can improve, but our supporters must realise that there isn't another Best at Old Trafford or anywhere.

It's become a nightmare when the names of these former greats are constantly brought up. We should be judged for who we are, not compared with the stars of yesterday.

In my season and a half in Manchester one thing has become crystal clear and that's the fact that anything other than success isn't tolerated. We can finish second in the League or be runners-up in the F.A. Cup and it simply isn't good enough.

It's the same at Liverpool. They lost for the first time in 86 home games the other week and it was a crisis! I ask you!

We've drawn too many games this season and the players have become nervous. If we don't score inside ten minutes we can sense the

unrest amongst the fans.

We need to beat City on Saturday. When we drew 2-2 in September they were in all sorts of trouble and if you'd suggested to a City fan then that they could finish above us this season he'd have laughed.

Now, it's a possibility, although I don't think it'll happen. I believe we'll not only be Manchester's top team, but we'll qualify for the UEFA Cup.

Funnily enough, the talk in Manchester has been not so much about which of us will be the city's top club. It's been whether the Maine Road attendances can beat those at Old Trafford. Even though we've dropped below 40,000 at times, we'll still have a higher average than City.

Mind you, I must pay tribute to the supporters from the other side of Manchester. They've been magnificent in their loyalty to the club. After what's happened at Maine Road in the past couple of years their gates are entitled to have slumped. Instead City have remained one of the best supported sides in the League . . . below us, though.

I hope to be playing this



"The days of Bobby Charlton are over forever at United."

League right now.

I don't know John Bond, but he seems a confident person and this has been communicated to his side. I feel a bit sorry for Malcolm Allison. Where he went wrong was probably selling so many players at once.

It was like playing a team with most of its best players injured, and opponents approached City in this way. In hindsight, maybe Malcolm would have changed the side slowly but surely.

John Bond has them buzzing right now. They're not so hesitant on the ball as they were earlier in the season. I particularly like the way all the players are looking for possession and are willing to have a pop at goal. This was underlined against Norwich in the Cup, when City won 6-0 and had six different goal-scorers.

A new manager invariably makes a team do better, as the players are wanting to impress. John has made the players believe in themselves, they're out of the rut and bear no resemblance to the side of early 1980/81.

I've played in two local derbies and I can't say I've really enjoyed them. They were played at too fast a pace, all crash, bang, wallop with no time to think.

The game in September was a classic and hopefully this Saturday's meeting will be as good.

Join me again in a fortnight.

Ray Wilkins



English clubs eye 'reject' Morris

FOOTBALL stars often take a curious route to the top. Many of them start their careers in different positions from the ones which catapult them to fame.

For instance, Kenny Dalglish and Gordon McQueen, two of Jock Stein's key World Cup men, both started as goalkeepers!

Ayr United's super-fast striker Eric Morris also had a varied path on his way along the soccer trail.

He first came into the spotlight as a junior player eight years ago. He was then a goalscoring outside-left and many critics tipped him to go on and win full Scottish international caps in the same position. Eric is still waiting!

Morris left the world of juniors to join Rangers, and played only a handful of games in his natural outside-left position. Instead, the then manager Jock Wallace thought he should play in defence. At centre-half, in fact.

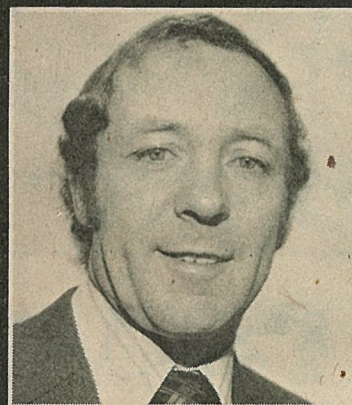
His career stuttered along uneventfully before Morris was switched again... this time to left-back!

"I wondered what was happen-

ing at the time," says Morris, "but I went along with it just to see what would happen."

First team football didn't beckon on the horizon and, two seasons ago, Morris was happy to leave Ibrox and sign for Willie McLean at Ayr United.

"Things started happening after that move," says Morris. "The



Willie McLean

boss, Mr McLean, told me he thought I could score goals, and I welcomed the chance to get into the attack again.

"The goals have been coming and I've been happy with my play, although I know I can still do better and have more to offer."

Morris has been re-awakened after his slumber at Ibrox, where he was in grave danger of becoming a forgotten man in the reserves.

'Delighted'

Ayr paid out something in the region of £25,000 for Morris, and manager McLean says: "I knew he could do a job for this club. He is a naturally gifted goalscoring player and there aren't too many of them around. I'm delighted he agreed to join us."

Already big money English clubs have been attracted to Ayr United to see some of Scottish soccer's most dazzling young players and the speed, energy and athleticism of front-runner Morris have caught their eye.

He leads the firing squad with lively enthusiasm and another of McLean's shrewd buys from Rangers, Davie Armour, brings skill and class to the middle of the park.

Rangers may yet regret letting such a deadly double-act leave Ibrox so cheaply.

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This week's Star Letter comes from G. Kirkham of Willingham, Cambridge, who wins our special prize of £10. He writes

DURBAN AND CLARKE OUT OF ORDER

★ NOT so very long ago, there was much talk of the new generation of gifted young managers.

Now, just a few years later, what has happened? The latest crop of young managers seems to include people who are making every attempt to prevent the game making any kind of constructive progress, and even appear to be trying to drag it backwards.

I am referring specifically to two instances of what can only be described as incredible statements, by people who should know better.

There was Alan Durban's comment to the effect that if people want to be entertained, they should visit the circus, not a football match, while Allan Clarke, on the subject of hooliganism, expressed the type of view that I, personally, thought existed only in satirical comedy, advocating the birching of offenders in front of the main stand.

To take the Stoke manager's comment first, it seemed to signal his recognition that football is almost at the stage where it is no longer a game, but an intensive business, where the fact that people actually come to watch is tolerated, simply because this provides money.

Obviously, this attitude is only the view of a small minority, and thankfully most clubs realise that positive steps are going to have to be taken as soon as possible.

As far as Allan Clarke's comments are concerned, all I can say is, the sooner that sort of mentality disappears from all aspects of life, not just football, the better. It really is about time that Allan, along with others (such as Bert Mil-

lichip) realised that violence and hooliganism are a product of the way peoples' lives are run for them, by the authority of the "establishment".

Revenge measures such as corporal punishment would only add to the general atmosphere of tension which prevails, not just in football, but in society as a whole.

It may be a cliché, but it is true to say that "violence breeds violence." The best way to deal with so-called football violence (and any other violence, for that matter) is not to fight it, but to remove the root causes.

This is not just the responsibility of the football authorities, but of everybody. The real football hooligans are those people who want to play the tough guy.

Along with certain elements of the Press, they are gradually killing the game.

● Durban has done a great job for Stoke City, keeping them in a respectable First Division place with limited resources. Clarke's views are shared by many people who have seen more conventional methods of fighting hooliganism fail.

SHOOT on the ball

I AM looking through the SHOOT dated 23.3.80 in which people were making predictions for the season, and I'm sure you will agree there were some interesting comments made.

For instance, Gordon McQueen's column was headed: Aston Villa — Championship outsiders. So far, Gordon is spot on.

Andy Gray's column was entitled: A less exciting season for Wolves. Again the crystal ball was correct.

There was also an article which said: Ball and Cooper face difficult tasks. How right SHOOT was.

A picture feature was headed: A crucial season for these stars. The players involved were Colin Lee, Tony Currie, Peter Barnes, Kevin Reeves, Frank McGarvey and Stan Bowles. All with the exception of Currie, who has been struggling with injuries, are beginning to show their best form again.

A feature headed: questions to be answered this season proved interesting. SHOOT gave its verdict on certain issues and here are some of the results.

SHOOT said "A better season for Leeds. The crowds will love Sabella and there will be more joy around Elland Road." A definite 'miss' by SHOOT.

"Ipswich to continue to pose problems for the bigger clubs. But Norwich could be struggling." Spot on SHOOT.

"Spurs to challenge strongly for honours and maybe win some silverware for the trophy cabinet." No one doubts their improvement.

"Arsenal may win the First Division title." They will have to improve to do so.

"Andy Ritchie will be a first team regular by January." Spot on SHOOT. Even if he had to move to Brighton to become a first team regular!

JOHN HUNTER, LONDONDERRY.

● Some you win — some you lose . . .

Thanks, Paul

I'M a supporter of Leeds United, but I'm very sorry to see the pending retirement of Paul Madeley.

Paul was a great asset to the game,

and will always be remembered for his versatility as a player. He has played in every position apart from goalkeeper in his 17-year playing career.

I'm sure he'll be missed on the pitch and off, because 'Rolls-Royce' was one of the greatest.

PHILIP McGEE, BALBY.

● How Leeds could do with a 20-year-old Madeley now.

Celtic fans degraded

ONCE again the supporters of Celtic have shown their unequalled loyalty by going 7,000 strong into England.

I am, of course, referring to the Scottish Cup-tie with Berwick Rangers, but was the gigantic force of police present for the game really necessary?

Most Celtic fans found this degrading and insulting. The fans had a police escort from the station to the ground and must have felt like prisoners of war.

What do they need to do to shake off this ridiculous reputation that has been forced upon them?

W. WALKER, GLASGOW.

● Sadly, when 7,000 fans of any British club go away police control must be tight. No doubt the Scottish police still had the memory of the riots after last year's Cup Final against Rangers in their mind.

Please explain

COULD someone please explain to the soccer public what on earth is going on at Crystal Palace Football Club?

SIMON FROST, HEMEL HEMPSTEAD.

● Pass.

Pen-Pals

I AM a 15-year-old Australian girl, I support Aston Villa and in particular Gary Shaw, so I would like Villa supporters who live in Birmingham to write to me.

KAY WARD, 30 BENNET STREET, LONGWORTHY VICTORIA, AUSTRALIA, 3816.



Paul Madeley will be greatly missed by Leeds when he retires in May.

ASK THE EXPERT

Send your letters to: Ask the Expert, SHOOT! King's Reach Tower, Stamford Street, London SE1 9LS. U.K. readers receive £2 for every letter published. Overseas readers receive a special SHOOT T-shirt. When writing, please state size: small, medium or large. While every letter is read, our Expert regrets he cannot reply to individual letters personally.

12-goal draw

What is the highest-scoring draw ever in a Football League match?

KA PING TSONG, PETERBOROUGH

● It's 6-6, Ka — between Charlton and Middlesbrough on 22nd October, 1960.

And it kept pretty even throughout the whole 90 minutes — the scoring going 1-0, 1-1, 1-2, 2-2, 3-2, 3-3, 3-4, 4-4, 4-5, 4-6, 5-6, 6-6.

Charlton's equaliser came in the very last minute — and Boro's first, fourth and sixth goals were scored by a chap named Brian Clough.

And much more recently — on 18th November, 1978 — Charlton were also involved in a 5-5 draw away to Bristol Rovers.

Long-jump Champ

Who was the England full-back who once held the World long-jump record?

A. JOHNSON NEW ZEALAND

● One of the world's greatest-ever all-rounders, C. B. Fry, was the man — back in the bygone amateur days when top sportsmen turned their hand to almost anything, and didn't specialise as they do now.

Fry also played for Southampton in the 1902 F.A. Cup Final — and, but for an eve-of-match injury, would also have gained a Rugby "blue" for Oxford against Cambridge.

In later years, he became a prolific author and journalist on sporting topics.

Cricket, though, was his main claim to fame — with more than 30,000 runs (for an average of over 50) in the first-class game; and playing for England in 26 Test Matches, nine of them as captain.

SHORT PASSES

● Swindon's highest-ever finishing position in the League is fifth in Division Two in 1969-70.

(ANDREW DILLEY, West Germany)

● Keith Burkinshaw is Tottenham's sixth manager since the last War — the others were Joe Hulme, Arthur Rowe, Jimmy Anderson, Bill Nicholson, and Terry Neill.

(COLIN WALKER, Crawley)

● The white ball was officially sanctioned in British football in 1951.

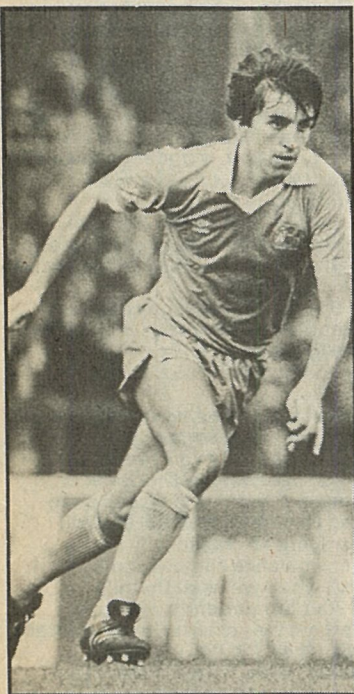
(DAVID WARBURTON, Wrexham)

● Trevor Francis made his League debut for Forest in a 2-0 home victory over Bristol City on 24th February, 1979.

(STUART McNEILL, Wishaw)

● Professionalism in English football was legalised by a decision of an F.A. Special General Meeting on 20th July, 1885.

(NIALL BOLGER, Eire)



A crucial season was correctly predicted for Manchester City's Kevin Reeves.

THE North-East's "Big Three," Newcastle United, Sunderland and Middlesbrough, all have considerable ground to make up in the League. But just how valid is the hope of real progress for this Geordieland trio of success-hungry clubs?

By the beginning of the month Middlesbrough and Sunderland were below mid-table in the First Division, and Newcastle were in the bottom half of Division Two — for all three, there had been varying measures of disappointment and frustration since August.

And Newcastle, the biggest club in the North-East by reputation, is the one whose position in the 1980-81 season is the worst. Struggling in the Second Division in front of declining crowds, The Magpies are obviously in need of urgent remedies to give them some hope.

Mark Proctor (far right) has helped Middlesbrough to shake off a reputation for defensive football which has upset manager John Neal (right) ever since he took over at Ayresome Park.



Little has gone smoothly for United this term. Early in September there was a switch in managers when Arthur Cox replaced Bill McGarry as boss at Gallowgate, and at the end of his third month with Newcastle, Cox was able to make some assessment of his team's future.

He said: "There's a tremendous amount of work to be done, and it will be done. One obvious need is for someone to get goals for us when the ball is in the opposing penalty-area. We need forwards with more physical stature than Alan Shoulder and Bobby Shinton."

Disastrous

Before the arrival of Cox on Tyneside, Newcastle were hugging the bottom of the table, after a disastrous start to the season which was made worse by the fact that right-back John Brownlie was out through injury.

There were various defensive shuffles, with the back-four assuming some sort of regular pattern — Steve Carney at right-back, Stuart Boam and Ken Mitchell as centre-backs, and Peter Johnson settling in satisfactorily following his transfer from Middlesbrough on the left.

One player who was consistent during this period was goalkeeper Kevin Carr, though midfield was unsettled, the choices for this department including Peter Cartwright, Mick Martin, Nigel Walker, Terry Hibbitt, Kenny Wharton and Frans Koenen.

Manager Cox, who had gone on record as saying he would give a fair chance to every man in his

SPECIAL REPORT

on the present state of the North-East



Only Boro boost Geordies

playing pool, found that neither Bill Rafferty nor Ray Clarke were able to fill the gap left by striker Peter Withe.

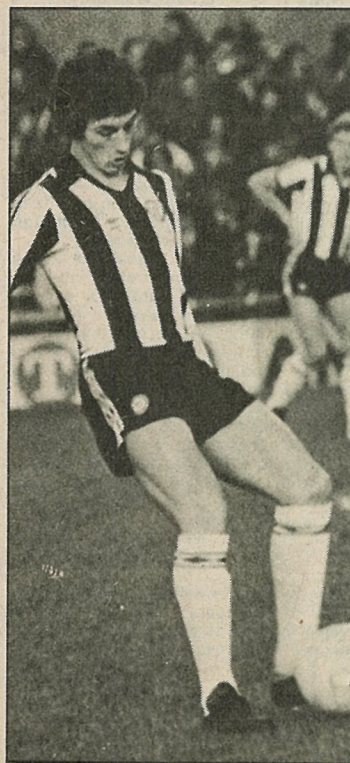
The Newcastle manager quickly became aware of the forward deficiencies he had inherited at St. James' and also the midfield shortcomings — so in December he splashed out £200,000 on Lincoln striker Mick Harford and a record club fee of £250,000 for West Bromwich midfielder John Trewick.

But only hopes of a good F.A. Cup run remained for Newcastle's disgruntled fans, who remember only too well the much happier situation existing at Newcastle a year ago, when the team topped the Second Division at mid-term and were tipped for the title.

At the present time, a position in the top half of the League appears to be as much as the Gallowgate club can hope for — indeed, even talk of relegation was in the air at Christmas, among some supporters.

But Mick Martin, Newcastle's experienced midfielder man, dismisses all thoughts of a drop into the Third Division.

Says Martin: "Relegation is something we don't think about, even though the players accept that our situation is tricky. Yet we have had a few good results in recent weeks and are starting to move back up the table."



John Trewick, Newcastle's recent midfield signing from WBA who helped his club to the last 16 in the F.A. Cup.

A place in the last 16 of the F.A. Cup has gone some way to appeasing the Newcastle fans.

And while Newcastle plan for a revival in Division Two, a trip a little further down the North-East coast finds Sunderland and Middlesbrough seriously occupied with improving their status in the First Division.

For Sunderland, the task of gaining a secure foothold in the top flight is proving difficult, and the Roker club's ambitious boss, Ken Knighton, is under no illusions about what are his team's priorities.

He wants the Wearsiders to rediscover their early-season form — he would also like cash to spend on new players.

But the Sunderland chairman, Tom Cowie, has made it plain that the Wearsiders will not be spending big in the transfer market.

He said: "We spent a vast amount of money getting promotion, and you simply cannot go on spending — the 'Bank of England' tag that this club once had is long since dead. We will compete as realistically as our bank balance allows for players if and when we need them."

And Sunderland's eye for a bargain was clearly demonstrated with the £250,000 signing of Nottingham Forest stalwart Ian Bowyer. He was recently joined by

£225,000 Tom Ritchie from Bristol City.

In manager Knighton's view, Sunderland's downward slide in the table before Christmas following a promising start to the season is proof positive that new blood is needed at Roker.

The Weariders completed the first 28 League games with a meagre haul of just 24 points. That left Sunderland just two places above the relegation zone, and with things starting to hot up at the foot of the table it could get uncomfortable at Roker Park.

And any involvement with relegation in 1981 was definitely not something that Knighton had in mind when his team kicked off last August.

He said: "We won't be content just to exist in the First Division. Our aim is to win a trophy or to qualify for Europe through our League position."

But the consistency required to gain Sunderland a trophy has been lacking. In defence, although goalkeeper Chris Turner has been sound, the back-four has struggled along without the services of key-man Jeff Clarke. The big centre-half was out for the opening four months of the season with damaged medial ligaments and was badly missed.

At full-back, Steve Whitworth and Joe Bolton were the men in possession before Christmas, with Whitworth coming in for some criticism.

And in the middle of the back-four, Sam Allardyce, Rob Hindmarch and Shaun Elliott were used, with only Elliott showing his class.

Elliott also did service in midfield, where players selected included Kevin Arnott, Gordon Chisholm, Gary Rowell, Mike Buckley, Claudio Marangoni and Stan Cummins. Ironically, Marangoni, the midfielder man that manager Knighton forked out a record club fee of £320,000 for, wasn't a success, and is returning home to Argentina on a sensational free transfer.

Indeed, the Sunderland midfield as a whole, like the back-four, showed weaknesses in mid-season — and up front, Brian Robson, John Hawley, Alan Brown and John Cooke competed for places in an attack which frequently found goals hard to come by in Division One.

Certainly more goals scored and less conceded by Sunderland in future would give the Roker men a welcome boost after their set-backs in the first half of the season — but on nearby Teesside, Middlesbrough have found goalscoring a challenge ever since they were promoted in 1974. For them, goal-getting has usually been a problem.

The Ayresome club has been accused of being too defensive, and Boro manager John Neal has

expressed his determination to change this image.

At the end of last season he said: "I accepted that this club had a reputation for safety first tactics when I took over. But we don't have that image now."

Admittedly, Middlesbrough attack more these days, yet overall results were only average up to the end of January, despite a good F.A. Cup showing. Without a major trophy on their sideboard throughout their history, the Teessiders have indicated that a place in the top three in the First Division is definitely beyond them this season.

Headlines

The least glamorous but arguably the best team at present in the North-East, Middlesbrough had three players in the opening four months of 1980-81 who grabbed most of the headlines at Ayresome Park — Craig Johnston, Dave Hodgson and Mark Proctor.

But in spite of all they have been able to do so far, and with Boro scoring more freely than in past years, the Teessiders could claim only mediocre success with 27 games played.

John Craggs, the veteran 32-year-old Middlesbrough full-back, has the experience to give a reason for his team's steady but unspectacular form to date.

He says: "Players like Craig Johnston and Dave Hodgson are very talented. They have so much zest that they frequently get

carried away, turn up in positions they should never be in — but it's all part of their learning. They are picking up tricks that will make them better players.

"Just when their full potential will be realised is difficult to say — when the side wins something is when it will prove we have come of age."

Along with Johnston, Hodgson and Proctor in the Boro team during the first half of this season, as well as Craggs, there was Jim Platt, Northern Ireland international 'keeper, capable defenders Billy Ashcroft, Tony McAndrew and Irving Nattrass, midfield maestro David Armstrong, and forwards Bosco Jankovic and Terry Cochrane — and manager Neal has great confidence in these men.

Summing up their season so far, he says: "We earned real respect in the First Division by playing the attacking football I've always believed in. Looking to the future, I get excited about the possibilities of a squad which has surprised so many people."

Looking back to the results achieved by their clubs so far this season, the North-East fans have had few pleasant surprises — but if Newcastle's new men John Treweek and Mick Harford are a success, if Sunderland manage to score more goals than in past months, and if Middlesbrough live up to John Neal's predictions, Geordieland could be a happier place to live in when May comes along.

FIRST DIVISION

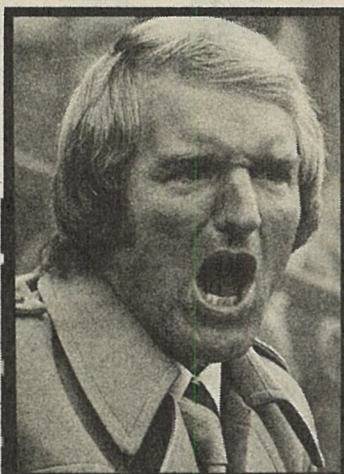
P	W	D	L	F	A		W	D	L	F	A	Pts
27	9	4	0	28	5	Ipswich.....	6	6	2	23	17	40
28	11	2	1	26	6	A. Villa.....	6	4	4	21	18	40
28	9	4	1	29	11	Liverpool.....	3	8	3	19	20	36
28	10	2	2	35	18	Sheff. Wed.....	3	5	6	21	22	33
27	8	3	2	22	8	W.B.A.....	4	6	4	13	18	33
28	8	6	0	24	12	Arsenal.....	3	5	6	17	21	33
28	8	5	1	33	20	Spurs.....	4	3	7	21	27	32
27	10	1	3	32	16	Nottm. F.....	2	6	5	9	13	31
28	5	9	0	23	10	Man. Utd.....	3	6	5	14	16	31
27	6	6	2	23	15	Everton.....	4	1	8	16	19	27
28	7	3	4	23	17	Man. C.....	3	4	7	17	23	27
27	9	4	1	28	10	Middlesbrough.....	2	0	11	11	29	26
27	5	6	2	20	14	Stoke.....	2	6	6	10	25	26
28	7	3	4	10	13	Leeds.....	3	3	8	13	24	26
28	7	4	3	22	18	Coventry.....	2	3	9	11	24	25
28	9	1	4	20	13	Wolves.....	0	6	8	8	24	25
28	7	3	4	22	13	Sunderland.....	2	3	9	16	24	24
28	6	4	4	20	18	Birmingham.....	2	4	8	12	25	24
28	6	1	7	17	20	Brighton.....	2	3	9	15	29	20
28	5	6	3	23	18	Norwich.....	2	0	12	8	34	20
28	4	2	8	11	15	Leicester.....	3	0	11	9	31	16
28	5	4	5	26	22	C. Palace.....	0	1	13	8	34	15

SECOND DIVISION

P	W	D	L	F	A	D	L	F	A	Pts		
28	13	0	1	37	9	West Ham	4	7	3	13	14	41
27	6	6	1	17	9	Notts Co	5	6	3	14	17	34
28	6	5	3	22	9	Chelsea	6	4	4	19	16	33
28	8	2	4	25	15	Swansea	3	8	3	17	17	32
27	8	5	1	19	5	Blackburn	3	5	11	16	32	
28	6	6	2	25	19	Derby	5	4	5	18	19	32
28	7	6	1	15	3	Grimsby	3	5	6	15	21	31
28	6	5	3	24	17	Luton	5	3	6	17	18	30
26	10	3	1	25	9	Sheff. W.	2	3	7	10	20	30
27	9	1	4	21	13	Camb'dge	4	3	6	11	20	30
27	7	4	2	22	7	QPR	3	4	7	15	19	28
28	6	5	3	23	14	Orient	4	3	7	15	21	28
27	6	4	3	12	10	Newcastle	3	5	6	8	24	27
28	8	4	2	21	12	Watford	0	5	9	9	20	25
28	7	3	4	30	17	Bolton	2	3	9	13	27	24
27	3	5	6	11	17	Wrexham	5	3	5	11	11	24
27	4	6	3	11	8	Oldham	3	3	8	13	22	23
26	6	3	4	17	15	Cardiff	2	4	7	13	23	23
28	5	5	4	1	15	Shrewsb'y	0	7	7	4	16	22
27	4	6	3	17	17	Preston	1	6	7	8	26	22
28	4	7	3	13	9	Bristol C.	0	5	9	5	25	20
28	1	8	5	14	18	Bristol R.	0	3	11	8	30	13

(Tables up to and including Jan. 31st)

(Tables up to and including Jan. 31st)



Sunderland boss Ken Knighton (inset) has been under pressure to produce the results this season. Chris Turner (below) has been one of the few consistent members of the Roker side.

ON THE BALL CROSSWORD

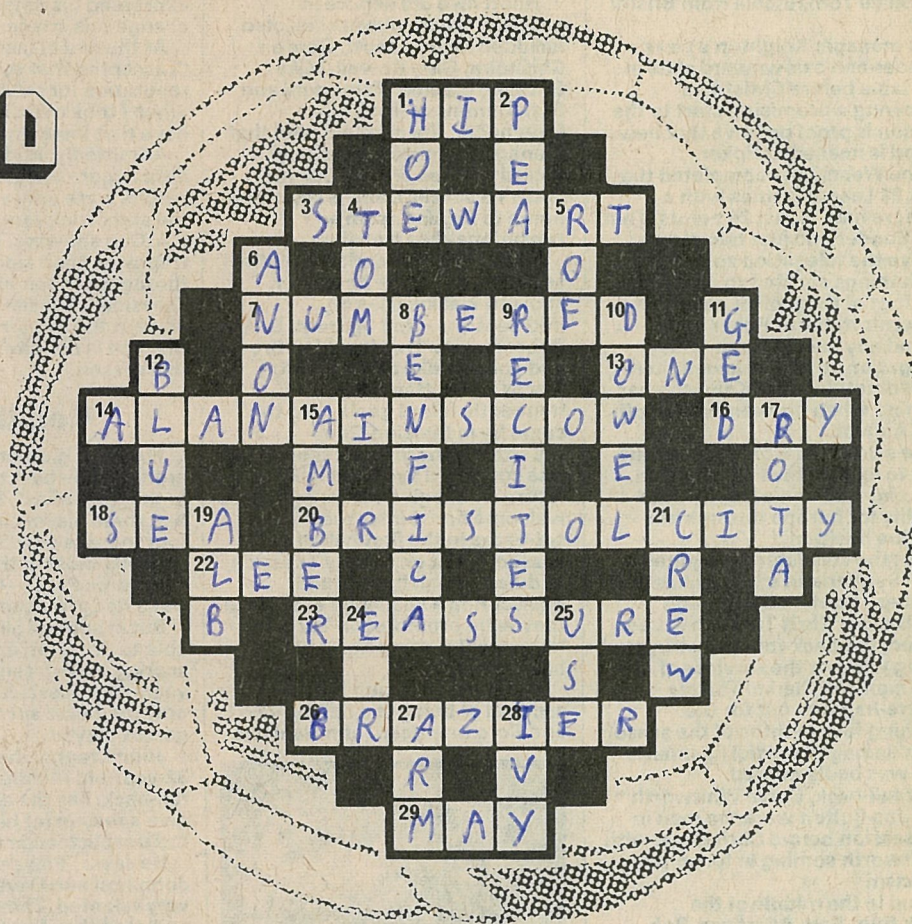
ACROSS

- (1) Part of the lower torso. (3)
 (3) Ray —, West Ham defender. (7)
 (7) For the identification of players and positions, the team shirts are thus marked. (8)
 (13) St Johnst--- play at Muirton Park. (3)
 (14) Birmingham City mid-field player. (4 & 7)
 (16) Lacking moisture. (3)
 (18) Les ---ley, Coventry 'keeper. (3)
 (20) One of the clubs relegated from English First Division last season. (7 & 4)
 (22) — Chapman, Stoke City striker. (3)
 (23) Restore to confidence. (8)
 (26) Colin —, Wolves defender. (7)
 (29) Month of the F.A. Cup Final. (3)

DOWN

- (1) Mick ---liff-ld, Wolves defender. (3)
 (2) Leeds United are known as 'The ---cocks'. (3)
 (4) — Finney, Cambridge United striker. (3)
 (5) John ---b-rtson of Nottm. Forest. (3)
 (6) Jim C---n-, Crystal Palace captain. (4)
 (8) Winners of the European Cup, 1960/61 & 1961/62. (7)
 (9) Repeats aloud from memory. (7)
 (10) John Mc-----l, Norwich City full-back. (5)
 (11) — Keegan, Oldham player. (3)
 (12) Coventry City colour. (4)
 (15) Take five letters from Cambridge to make a semi-precious stone. (5)
 (17) List of players or duties in order. (4)
 (19) Arthur ---iston, Manchester United full-back. (3)
 (21) Gang of "Railwaymen" from Gresty Road! (4)
 (24) Another organ from Hearts! (3)
 (25) Employ. (3)
 (27) Upper limb. (3)
 (28) If Cardiff, Exeter and Celtic give AXE; what do Liverpool, Everton and Ayr give? (3)

ANSWERS ON
PAGE 40



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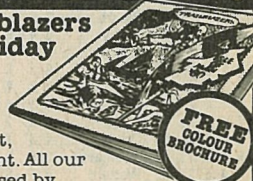
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I doubt if there has ever been an Old Firm match which has been tagged anything less than ultra important.

But somehow this Saturday (Feb 21), when we take on Rangers at Parkhead, will have added spice. And while the eyes of all Britain will be on us anyway, I can't help feeling that maybe those in Aberdeen will be focused just a little more firmly than most.

Few would deny that the Premier Division battle is anything more than a three-horse race between Celtic, Rangers and the current Champions from the North.

So The Dons will be watching closely the outcome at Parkhead, perhaps hoping that Rangers can beat us as we are a bigger threat at the moment.

I think we can do it and the two points will have a double effect, for they will surely cripple Rangers' Championship ambitions and fire us for a home run for the title.

Mind you, we have yet to beat John Greig's men this season.

In the previous two games, Rangers won 2-1 at Parkhead with goals from Jim Bett and a spectacular



Tartan Talk
DANNY
McGRAIN



Colin McAdam shows his obvious delight after scoring the final goal in Rangers' 3-0 defeat of Celtic at Ibrox last November.

'No hat-trick, for Rangers'

effort in the last minute from Alex Miller.

Then in the return they trounced us 3-0 with two goals from Colin McAdam and one from John MacDonald. We certainly aim to stop the rot this weekend.

While we will be in the news, I would like to turn the spotlight on the forgotten heroes of soccer. The guys who play for kicks.

I am motivated to do so after reading in a Scottish newspaper about an amateur team from Furnace, a tiny village — population 300 — on the shores of Loch Fyne in Argyll on the West Coast of Scotland.

They call themselves Lochside Amateurs and they play in the Fifth Division of the Scottish Amateur League. Indeed they top their Division after promotion from the Seventh Division in three seasons.

But they do so under circumstances and with dedication which

would make a top player blush with embarrassment.

For example, they were given a field by a local farmer and after lots of hard work they manicured it to playable standards as a pitch. But part of the agreement is that the farmer can use the pitch as a field through the week, and this he does to keep his cattle and sheep.

Shovelling

Consequently the team captain and manager, spend Saturday morning shovelling the playing surface clear of cow manure!

And as if home games aren't a big enough problem, they have to travel a round trip of 120 miles for their NEAREST away game. Most away Saturdays they have to pay their own expenses to make it to and from Glasgow ... a return journey of over 200 miles for some of the lads.

Throughout the nation every Saturday afternoon thousands of lads go through, if not the same routine, then at least diluted versions of it.

And indeed I remember when — long before my Celtic and Scotland days — I played under some outrageous conditions. There was one set of pitches on the north side of Glasgow called Temple, and never was a place more ill-named. It certainly wasn't meant for the worship of football.

The pitches were of black ash and the dressing-rooms were one big hut with no showers, no lights and for that matter no floor. The black ash just carried on into them.

Yet I think these terrible surfaces helped so many players from Glasgow to learn the skills which have taken them to the top.

Of course you don't realise at the time that when you have to do something extra to control an awk-

wardly bouncing ball it is going to set you up for a famous future.

It is when I remember these times that I want to salute the unsung heroes of football. Some of these guys are unemployed yet still find the cash and dedication to travel a long way for a game.

And that brings me nicely to another group of people who love football and who recently travelled a long way in aid of it — the Celtic fans who went to Berwick to support us in the Third Round of the Scottish Cup.

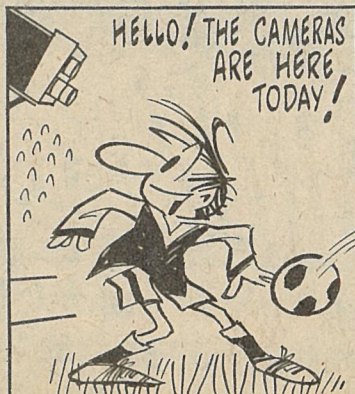
Their behaviour was impeccable. Keep it up lads.

See you in two weeks ...

Derek Johnstone

**TARTAN TALK
FROM RANGERS'
DEREK JOHNSTONE
NEXT WEEK**

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CLUB SPOTLIGHT



Garry Thompson upsets the West Ham defence during the League Cup Semi-Final.

ASK a man in the street to state Coventry City's position in the First Division and he is likely to suggest that the Midlands club are in a fringe leadership position likely to threaten with a late run for the Championship.

The reality is that Coventry have no hope of winning the title, their mediocre League form camouflaged by storming runs in the League Cup and F.A. Cup.

Coventry's thrilling comeback to gain victory over West Ham in the first leg of the League Cup Semi-Final at Highfield Road was a tribute to their character, determination and capacity for the odd flash of brilliance.

The ease with which they destroyed Midlands rivals and title-chasers West Bromwich Albion 3-0 was another example of their penchant for the unexpected.

Threatened

Yet in September they crashed to a 5-0 defeat against Everton at Highfield Road and were easily beaten 4-1 by Tottenham at White Hart Lane and by relegation threatened Norwich at home.

Many supporters expected them to beat Watford in the League Cup at Vicarage Road. They managed only a 2-2 draw, and with the Second Division club hoping to do better in the replay, Coventry sent their fans wild in a 30,000 crowd at Highfield Road by scoring five goals to proceed to the next round.

Coventry are something of an enigma, capable of scaling the heights only to fumble incompetently through the next game.

To be fair to Gordon Milne's club, they have played more consistently since the turn of the year and promise much in the next few weeks as their exciting group of youngsters blend into a formidable unit.

Garry Thompson, arguably the most improved striker in the First Division, believes that Coventry are maturing every time they play.

Peter Bodak, one of Coventry's exciting young talents.

Coventry's kids are growing up

Garry, the two-goal hero of Coventry's League Cup first-leg win against West Ham, claims that their progress since Christmas has been due in the main to the brilliance of their midfield trio Gerry Daly, Andy Blair and Steve Hunt.

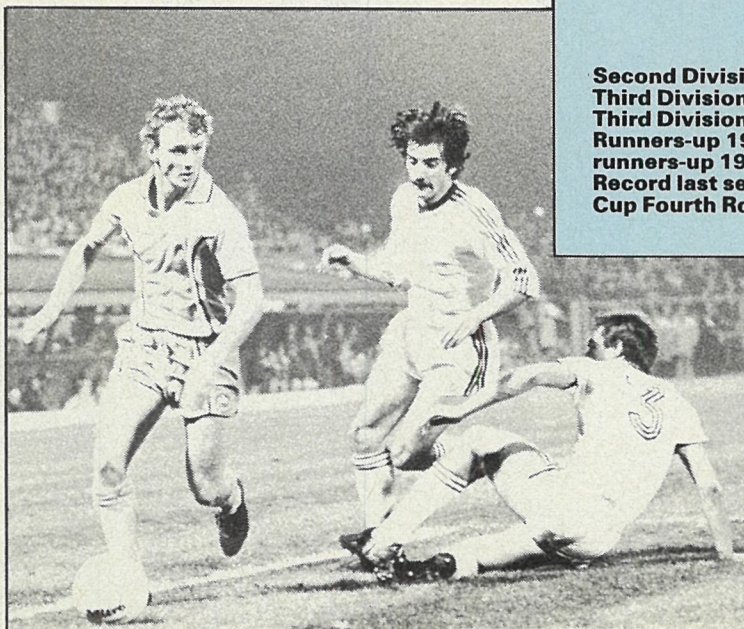
"Steve has been brilliant this season," beams Garry. "He's odds-on to win our 'Player of the Season' Award. The best thing the boss ever did was to put Steve in midfield."

"When he returned to English football from Cosmos, he was considered a winger. Now he is playing down the left side of midfield,

sprinting from deep positions and giving defences a load of problems with his speed.

"Gerry's runs are also a nightmare for most opponents. He's a great link between defence and attack. He reminds me so much of Liverpool's Terry McDermott, skilful on the ball, always calling for passes, and a non-stop talker."

Blair, capped at England Under-21 and B level, has been the most consistent player in recent weeks, maintains Garry. "He has recovered from his early season injury and is playing great stuff."



Reluctant

"Brian Roberts has done brilliantly at left-back and Danny Thomas and Peter Bodak get better all the time," emphasises Garry. He is reluctant to talk about his new strike partnership with Mark Hateley, save to say that "we have much to learn."

Thompson prefers to play down the contribution he and his co-striker have made.

"Play against a defence like Leeds United's and you wonder where your next goal is coming from," admits Garry, who scored an F.A. Cup Third Round winner against Allan Clarke's team after Coventry were held to a 1-1 draw at Elland Road.

"I look at Dalglish, Gray and Mariner, and I wonder whether I'll ever be as good as them."

"Mark and I are striving for a better relationship. We want to develop the same telepathic understanding Withe and Shaw have established at Villa."

They have no cause to worry, for Gordon Milne believes that Thompson and Hateley are an ideal combination, and their success together has limited the first team chances of Tom English, rated one of England's best discoveries last season.

"I feel sorry for Tom," says Garry. "The fans gave him a lot of

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Third Division (South) Champions 1935-36.
Runners-up 1933-34. Fourth Division runners-up 1958-59.
Record last season: First Division 15th. F.A. Cup Fourth Round, League Cup Third Round.

stick in our first home League game against Liverpool back in August. It hurt him, because he's always been a trier and is not short of ability either."

Even Gordon Milne has grown tired of all the platitudes about the promise of his young squad. Football supporters demand success, and silverware has been in short supply at Coventry since their formation 98 years ago.

At long last all the hard work seems to be bearing fruit. A trophy winning campaign is not beyond the Sky Blues burgeoning talents in the near future.



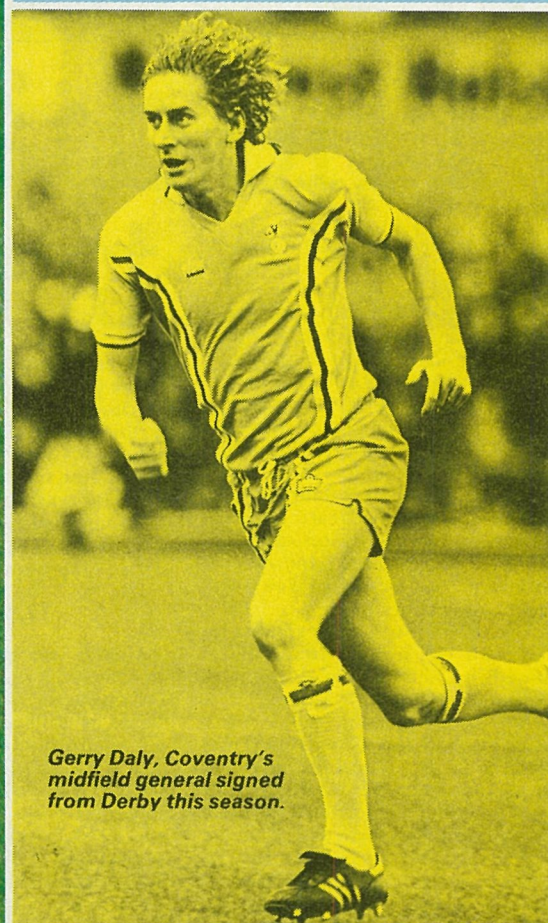
COVENTRY CITY



BACK ROW (left to right): Garry Thompson, Mick Ferguson, Jim Blyth, Les Sealey, Paul Dyson, Gary Gillespie.

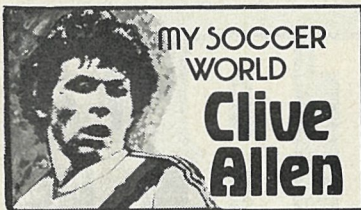
MIDDLE ROW: Andy Blair, Tom English, David Jones, Mick Coop, Bobby McDonald (now Manchester City), George Dalton (physio).

FRONT ROW: Roger Van Gool, Brian Roberts, Gordon Milne (manager), Ron Wylie (asst. manager), Ray Gooding, Steve Hunt.



Gerry Daly, Coventry's midfield general signed from Derby this season.

SHOOT!



CHANGING clubs can be one of the most exciting periods in a player's career. It can also mean heartache and disaster... a mistake he may never completely recover from.

I doubt if there's anyone else in the game who can beat my record of two £1 million moves within a few weeks. Now, here I am on the verge of joining my fourth club. Not bad for a lad of 19 is it?

Most big transfers follow the same pattern and start with a mention in the gossip columns of the Sunday Press.

If those stories are true the player's manager will soon reveal an inquiry has been made.

Most of these rumours are completely unfounded, though, and only serve to unsettle a player. Especially if he doesn't want a move and is happy at a club.

When Palace listed me my name was linked with a host of clubs including Leeds, West Ham, Q.P.R., West Brom, Everton and Arsenal. As far as I know the only genuine offer was made by my old club Rangers.

When a definite bid has been made and accepted, the player concerned will be told and given permission to make contact with the interested party... if he wants to leave that is.

Most players will go home and think about the move and discuss it



Clive signs on the dotted line for Arsenal, watched by manager Terry Neill and secretary Ken Friar.

'The diary of a transfer'

with his family, especially if it involves a club in another part of the country, or abroad.

Some will consult an agent straightaway, but I didn't. The only person I listened to during my moves was my dad.

The next stage is to arrange a meeting with your prospective new boss. This can be in his office at the ground, in an hotel room, over lunch in a secluded restaurant or, as in some cases I've heard about, a motorway service station car park.

When I left Q.P.R. for Arsenal dad took me by car to see Terry Neill at Highbury.

The size of the fee is never discussed with the player. That's determined by the two clubs and is nothing to do with the player.

At Arsenal and Palace I introduced myself and asked what Terry Neill and Terry Venables expected of me, the role they wanted me to play. When that side had been agreed we got down to talking terms.

Occasionally a contract can be settled quickly. More often than not there's a period of wheeling and dealing.

When terms have been studied by the player and his accountant or solicitor, a new contract is drawn up by the buying club's secretary and signed. The forms are then despatched to the Football League's office for registration.

Managers don't usually go into a player's personal life because that will already be on file.

Trouble

A club will go to great lengths investigating a player's background and character. Whether he smokes, drinks or visits nightclubs. Playboys can spell trouble.

If a transfer involves a move to another part of the country, the player will have been taken around the district with his wife to view houses and look at schools before the serious business is discussed.

No use a player joining a new club if he's likely to be unhappy.

If all goes smoothly during a transfer the Press will have been notified and invited along to witness the signing. I agree with this because it allows the media to take their pictures and get stories all in one go, leaving the player free the next day to settle in and train in peace with his new team-mates.

Naturally journalists want to know the size of the fee and how much the player is earning. No player ever reveals his financial status, so many of the figures that appear in print are pure speculation.

When all the serious business is over it's time to return to your old club to collect boots and say cheerio to everyone. If parting is amicable the manager will wish a player well. Sometimes he stays discreetly in the background.

Leaving a club can be an emotional time, especially if you've been with them a long time. It

certainly was for me when I left Rangers for Arsenal.

But it's surprising how quickly a new player settles in with a club. He obviously tries to make an impression and be friendly. Usually you know one or two of the lads anyway, which helps.

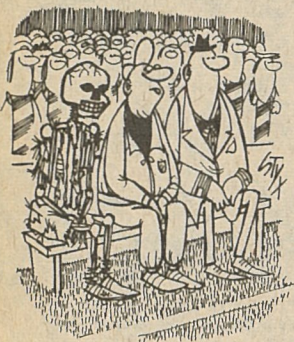
Of course life can be difficult if a player is put on the transfer list and has to wait weeks for a move. The uncertainty can be unbearable at times.

The situation I found myself in at Palace can unsettle a player although you still try to train hard and do your best for the club.

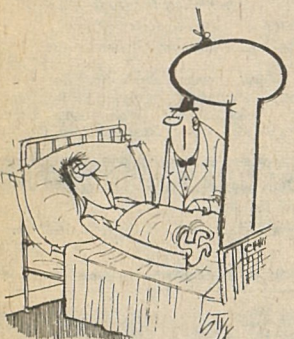
As I write my own future is still undecided. I had a meeting with Dario Gradi a day or so after he took over from Malcolm Allison and he told me he would release me as soon as the right offer came along.

Although I don't figure in his plans for Palace I wish him and the club well. The Selhurst Park fans certainly deserve some success.

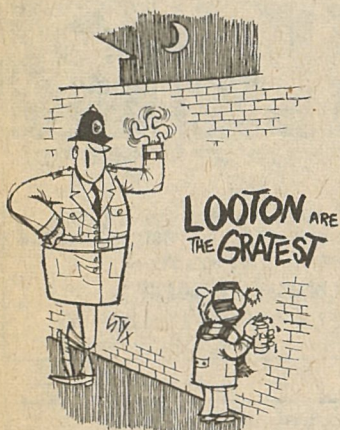
FOOTBALL FUNNIES



"Don't you think it's about time we gave our sub a game?"



"If it's any consolation — the full-back who made the tackle sprained an ankle."



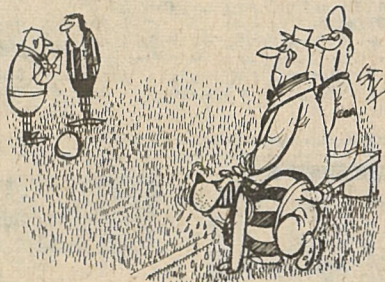
"Not exactly the greatest when it comes to spelling, are we, Mastermind?"



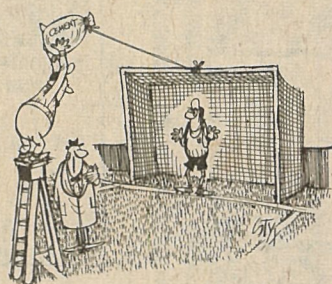
"This ground's got a bit of a slope, hasn't it?"



This week Leicester City's Jim Mellow, scorer of his side's famous winning goal at Anfield, selects the jokes specially drawn by our cartoonist Styx.



"I think it's about time we sent on our mascot, boss."



"He'll make Shilton and Clemence look like amateurs by the time I've finished with him."

TONY Kellow is enjoying the season of a lifetime — and the envied crown as the Football League's top marksman. He is on schedule to end the season with 40 first team goals, and has rocketed to national fame since his hat-trick disposed of Leicester City in the F.A. Cup Fourth Round.

Those goals, of course, were all for Exeter City — but the aggressive Cornishman makes it plain that he is a 'hired gun'. "I want to taste First Division football," he says.

"I made my terms clear to manager Brian Godfrey when I transferred back from Blackpool. I am using the club as a stepping stone. I returned to Exeter because I needed time to reorganise my life after 18 unhappy months at Blackpool.

"Now I've done it. My zest is back and I know that I am good enough to score goals for any team in the country. Once a goalscorer always a goalscorer... and I've proved myself in that business," says Kellow, whose hat-trick against Leicester gave Exeter their first Cup victory over a First Division side for 50 years.

Exeter coach Malcolm Musgrove makes no secret of his admiration for Kellow's finishing ability.



Why Kellow wants a move

"There are players going to the First and Second Division clubs for £200,000 who aren't fit to lace his boots," he says.

"When it comes to making and taking goals inside the penalty-area, no one can do it better. He creates goals out of nothing and that is a priceless asset. Right foot, left foot and in the air — he sticks them in from everywhere."

Yet behind the Kellow success story this season, there was a doubt. After leaving St. James' Park (the Devon version not the one in Newcastle) in a record £115,000 deal, he found it hard to settle at Blackpool.

"We went to see Tony twice before we brought him back at half the price we received for him," says Musgrove. "Frankly, he looked a shadow of the player who had scored 40 goals in 107 League games for Exeter. Finally, we paid £65,000 on the strength of what we knew."

That decision by manager Godfrey and coach Musgrove was spot on. Kellow quickly proved that there is no place like home for solving problems. An overture of five goals from ten matches at the end of last season has been followed by an unstoppable burst of goalscoring this campaign.

But why did it go wrong at Blackpool? "It is not always easy for Southerners to settle in the North and there was the added problem of changing managers. First Bob Stokoe, then Stan Ter-

rent and finally Alan Ball," explains Kellow.

"There was an atmosphere in the club that weighed me down and I lost my feeling for the place. There was then a question of starting all over again and it was great of Exeter to give me the chance. I don't think they will stand in my way if the right offer comes in from a bigger club."

That "right offer" will be a lot more than the £65,000 it took to bring Tony back to the West Country. "Yes, he has proved a bargain that we did well to work out at exactly the right moment," agrees Musgrove. "He won't be leaving a second time for that kind of money!"

'Late Starter'

But might not top clubs — especially in these money-troubled days — be doubly doubtful over a striker who has been unhappy with one move away from home and who is also 28?

"They have no need to be," responds Kellow. "I was a late starter, coming into League football at 24. I'm a young 28 and a very hard trainer."

"And Blackpool was a one-off occasion. I'm ambitious and I was unlucky in going to a club that was going through a lean patch and making changes. I believe that I've got a lot to offer and I'm grateful to Exeter for giving me the chance to prove it all over again."

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LINE-UPS...RESULTS...SCORERS...

Saturday, January 24

Scottish Cup

(Third Round) continued

HAMILTON (0) 0
ST JOHNSTONE (0) 3 (Brogan, Morton, Docherty) 3,054
 Hamilton: Ferguson, Frew, Brown, Wright, McDougall, Alexander, Fairlie, McDowell, Deane, McAdam, McManus.
 St Johnstone: Jenkins, Mackay, McNeil, Fleming, Rutherford, Caldwell, Pelosi, McCoist, Docherty, Morton, Brogan.

HIBERNIAN (0) 1 (MacLeod) 6,355
DUNFERMLINE (1) 1 (Leonard) 6,355
 Hibernian: McArthur, Sneddon, Duncan, McNamara, Paterson, McLaren, Callaghan, Rae, Jamieson, MacLeod, McGlinchey.
 Dunfermline: Whyte, Robertson, Mercer, Thomson, Leishman, Hutt, McNaughton, Dunlop, Leonard, Donnelly, O'Brien.

KILMARNOCK (1) 2 (McDicken, Hughes) 8,200
AYR (0) 1 (Hendry) 8,200
 Kilmarnock: McCulloch, McLean, Cockburn, Gibson, Armstrong, Dicken, Doherty, Clarke, Bourke, Clark, Hughes.
 Ayr: Rennie, Shanks, Connor, McColl, Nicol, Fleeting, McCutcheon, Armour, (Hendry), Morris, Love, Christie (Frye).

MORTON 0
HEARTS 0 4,500
 Morton: Baines, Hayes, Holmes, Rooney, Hutchins, Orr, Houston, (Ritchie), Marr, McNeill (Bryce), Tolmie, Cochrane.
 Hearts: Brough, Hamilton, Shields, More, Liddell, Mackay, Kidd, MacDonald, Gibson, Hammill, O'Brien.

PARTICK (0) 2 (Whittaker, Clark) 4,200
CLYDE (0) 2 (Masterton 2) 4,200
 Partick: Rough, Murray, Lapsley, Whittaker, Anderson, Watson, Park, Jardine, Sweeney, O'Hara, Clark.
 Clyde: Young, Brogan, Filippi, Dempsey, Kinnear, Ahearn, Dempster, Kean (J), Masterton, O'Neill, Evans.

RAITH (0) 1 (Harris) 10,000
ABERDEEN (1) 2 (Jarvis 2) 10,000
 Raith: McDermott, McDonough, Candlish, Ford, Forsyth, Steel, Lawson, Urquhart, Harris, Stein, Mitchell.
 Aberdeen: Leighton, Rougvie, Considine, Watson, McLeish, Cooper, Bell, McCall, McGhee, Jarvie, Hewitt.

ST MIRREN (0) 0
DUMBARTON (1) 2 (Donnelly, Coyle (J)) 6,209
 St Mirren: Thomson, Young, Beckett, McCormack, Dunlop (Abercromby), Fulton, Bone, Stark, Somner, Richardson, Weir (McDougall).
 Dumbarton: Carson, Sinclair, McLeod, Coyle (T), Gallagher (J), (Campbell), Coyle (J), Rankin (Blair), McGowan, Gallagher (B), McGrain, Donnelly.

STENHOUSEMUIR (0) 1 (Jack) 1,524
MOTHERWELL (1) 1 (Forbes) 1,524
 Stenhousemuir: Howie, McGraw, Rennie, Meakin, Black, Mullen, Jack, Graham, Hancock, Jenkins, Kirkland.
 Motherwell: Sproat, Wark, McLeod, McClelland, Carson, Forbes, Galloglen, Kidd, Irvine, Clelland, McLaughlin.

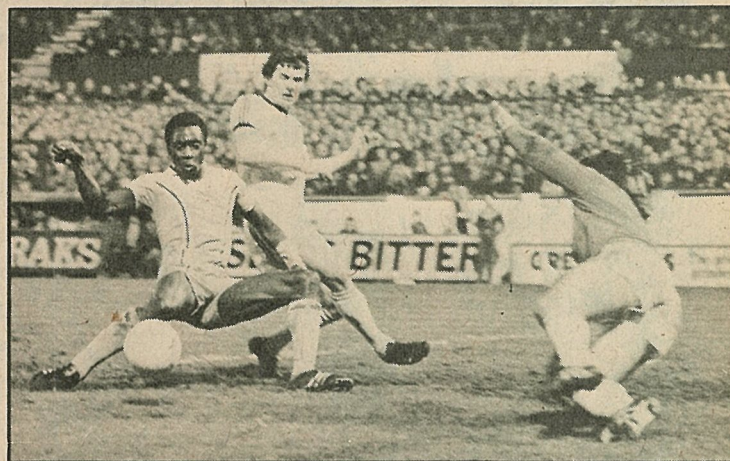
Scottish Second

ALBION (1) 2 (Hill, Hannigan) 300
FORFAR (2) 4 (Brash pen, Bennett, Laurie, Robb) 300

MEADOWBANK (0) 0
ALLOA (3) 4 (McComb 2, MacIntosh, Smith) 300

QOS (0) 1 (Coughlin) 900
QUEEN'S PARK (0) 0 900

STRANRAER (0) 0
MONTROSE (1) 3 (Pirie, Beadie 2) 650



Tuesday, January 27

F.A. Cup

(Fourth Round replays)

IPSWICH (1) 3 (Gates 2, Wark) 27,453
SHREWSBURY (0) 0 27,453
 Ipswich: Cooper, Mills, McCall, Thijssen, Osman, Butcher, Wark, Muhren, Mariner Brazil (O'Callaghan), Gates.
 Shrewsbury: Wardle, King, Leonard, Turner, Griffin, Keay, Tong, Atkins, Bates, Biggins (Dungworth), Cross.

WOLVES (0) 2 (Richards pen., Parkin) 30,854
WATFORD (0) 1 (Poskett) 30,854
 Wolves: Bradshaw, Palmer, Hollifield, Daniel, McAlle, Berry, Hibbitt, Parkin, Gray, Richards, Eves.
 Watford: Sherwood, Rice, Harrison, Taylor, Sims, Jactett, Jenkins, Blissett, Armstrong, Train, Rostron (Poskett).

Coventry's Garry Thompson threatens the West Ham goal during their League Cup Semi-Final.

Football League Cup

(Semi-Final, first-leg)

COVENTRY (0) 3 (Thompson 2, Daly) 35,468
WEST HAM (2) 2 (Bonds, Thompson (og)) 35,468
 Coventry: Sealey, Thomas, Roberts, Blair, Dyson, Gillespie, Bodak, Daly (Jacobs), Thompson, Hateley, Hunt.
 West Ham: Parkes, Stewart, Brush, Bonds, Martin, Devonshire, Allen, Goddard, Cross, Brooking, Pike.

Third Division

BURNLEY (1) 1 (Hamilton) 6,683
PORTSMOUTH (1) 3 (Tait, Bryant, Hemmerman) 6,683

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Wed, January 28

F.A. Cup

(Fourth Round replays)

BRISTOL CITY (0) 5 (Mabbutt 2, Ritchie 2 (pen.), Mann)
CARLISLE (0) 0 12,801
 Bristol City: Moller, Sweeney, Hay, Aitken, Rodgers, Marshall, Tainton (Mann), Fitzpatrick, Mabbutt, Ritchie, Whitehead.
 Carlisle: Swinburn, Haigh, Coady, McDonald, Houghton, Parker, Coughlin, Campbell, Bannan, Beardsley, Staniforth.

EXETER (1) 3 (Kellow 3 (1 pen.))
LEICESTER (0) 1 (Melrose) 15,268
 Exeter: Main, Rogers M, Hatch, Forbes, Roberts L, Roberts P, Pearson, Rogers P, Kellow, Delve, Pullar.
 Leicester: Wallington, Williams, Friar, Peake, May, O'Neill, Byrne, Melrose, Young, Wilson, McDonald.

ENFIELD (0) 0
BARNLEY (1) 3 (Aylott 2, Glavin) At Tottenham 35,244
 Enfield: Jacobs, Wade, Tone, Jennings Barrett, Howell, Ashford, Bishop, Burton, Oliver, King.
 Barnley: New, Joyce, Chambers, Glavin, Banks, McCarthy, Evans, Parker, Aylott, Lester, Downes.

First Division

SUNDERLAND (1) 2 (Chisholm, Rowell pen.)
MANCHESTER UTD. (0) 0 31,910
 Sunderland: Turner, Whitworth, Bolton, Hindmarch, Elliott, Rowell, Arnott, Bowyer, Hawley, Chisholm, Cummins.
 Man. Utd: Bailey, Nicholl, Albiston, Duxbury, McQueen, Buchan, Coppell, Birtles, Jordan, Macari, Thomas.

Fourth Division

BRADFORD (1) 1 (Campbell)
PETERBOROUGH (0) 1 (Kellock) 3,305

Scottish Cup

(Third Round replays)

CLYDE (1) 2 (O'Neill, Evans)
PARTICK (2) 4 (O'Hara 2, Clark 2) 41,000
 Clyde: Young, Brogan, Filippi, Dempsey, Kinnear, Ahern, Dempster, Kean, Masterton, O'Neill, Evans.
 Partick: Rough, McKinnon, Whittaker, Campbell, Anderson, Watson, McDonald, Jardine, O'Hara, Doyle, Clark.

CLYDEBANK (2) 5 (Miller 3, Houston, Evans)
EAST FIFE (2) 4 (Scott G. 2, Halley, Huskie) AET 600
 Clydebank: Hill, Jervaise (Harkins), McLaughlin, Fallon, Sharkey, Given, Ronald (McIntyre), Houston, Evans, Miller, McCabe.

East Fife: Gorman, Clarke, Mitchell, McLaren, Halley, Thompson, Huskie, Scott J, Scott G, Mackie (Burt), Tait.
COWDENBEATH (2) 4 (Liddle, Forrest 2, Steele)
ARBROATH (0) 0 745
 Cowdenbeath: Allen, Rowland, Markey, Tierney, Stewart, Hunter, Ferguson, Steele, Liddell, Marshall, Forrest.
 Arbroath: Martin, Forsyth, Scrimgeour, Gavine, Young, Ryalnce, Harley (Myles), McKenzie, Hyslop, Shaw, McDowell.

DUNFERMLINE (0) 1 (McNaughton pen)
HIBERNIAN (1) 2 (Rae, Callaghan) AET 8,552
 Dunfermline: Whyte, Robertson, Mercer, Thomson, Leishman, Heggarty (Hutt), McNaughton, Dunlop, Leonard (McFarlane), Donnelly, O'Brien.
 Hibs: McArthur, Sneddon, Duncan, McNamara, Paterson, McLaren, Callaghan, Rae, Hamill, MacLeod, Connolly (Jamieson).

HEARTS (0) 1 (MacDonald)
MORTON (1) 3 (Tolmie, Rooney, Thomson) 9,762
 Hearts: Brough, Hamilton (McShane), Shields, More, Liddle, Mackay, Kidd, Gibson, Hamill (White), O'Brien, MacDonald.
 Morton: Baines, Hayes, Holmes, Rooney, McLaughlin, Orr, Houston, Marr, Thomson, Tolmie, Ritchie.

MOTHERWELL (2) 2 (McLelland, Gahagan)
STENHOUSEMUIR (0) 1 (Meakin) 2,735
 Motherwell: Sproat, Wark, McLeod, McLelland, Carson, Forbes, Gahagan, Kidd, Irvine, Clelland, McLaughlin.
 Stenhousemuir: Howie, McCraw, Rennie, Meakin, Black, Mullen, Jack, Murdoch, Hancock, Jenkins, Kirkland.

Friday, January 30

Fourth Division

STOCKPORT (0) 0
DARLINGTON (1) 1 (Walsh) 2,011

TRANMERE (1) 2 (Evans, Kelly)
SOUTHEND (1) 2 (Bramhall (og), Nelson) 2,127

Saturday, January 31

First Division

ARSENAL (1) 2 (Talbot, Stapleton)
COVENTRY (1) 2 (Bodak, Daly) 24,876
 Arsenal: Jennings, Hollins, Sansom, Talbot, Walford, Young, McDermott, Sunderland, Stapleton, Gating, Rix.
 Coventry: Sealey, Thomas, Roberts, Blair, Dyson, Gillespie, Bodak (Jacobs), Daly, Thompson, Hateley, Hunt.

ASTON VILLA (1) 1 (Shaw)
MANCHESTER CITY (0) 0 3,682
 Aston Villa: Rimmer, Swain, Deacy, Evans, McNaught, Mortimer, Bremner, Shaw, Withe, Cowans, Morley.
 Man. City: Corrigan, Henry, McDonald, Booth, Power, Caton, Bennett, Gow, Mackenzie, Hutchison, Reeves.

BRIGHTON (0) 0
TOTTENHAM (1) 2 (Ardiles, Crooks) 23,354
 Brighton: Digweed, Gregory, Stevens, Horton, Foster, Lawrenson, McNab (Smith), Ritchie, Robinson, Clarke, O'Sullivan.
 Tottenham: Daines, McAllister, Miller, Roberts, Lacy, Perryman, Ardiles (Brooke), Archibald, Glavin, Hoddle, Crooks.

IPSWICH (2) 4 (Wark pen, Brazil 2, Gates)
STOKE (0) 0 23,843
 Ipswich: Cooper, Mills, McCall, Thijssen, Osman, Butcher, Wark, Muhren, Mariner (O'Callaghan), Brazil, Gates.
 Stoke: Fox, Doyle, Hampton, Dodd, O'Callaghan, Munro, Bracewell, Griffiths (Ursem), Chapman, Heath, Maguire.

LEEDS (0) 1 (Harris)
NORWICH (0) 0 15,836
 Leeds: Lukic, Greenhoff, Gray, Flynn, Hart, Cherry, Harris, Hird, Connor, Sabella, Graham.
 Norwich: Baker, Bond, Barham, Jack, Powell, Watson, Mendham, Fashanu, Royle, Paddon, Bennett.

LIVERPOOL (1) 1 (Young (og))
LEICESTER (0) 2 (Byrne, Melrose) 35,154
 Liverpool: Clemence, Neal, Cohen, Thompson, Kennedy R, Irwin, Heighway, Lee, Johnson, McDermott (Case), Souness.
 Leicester: Wallington, Williams, Friar, Peake, May, O'Neill, Byrne (Goodwin), Melrose, Young, Wilson, McDonald.

MANCHESTER UNITED (1) 2 (Jordan, Macari)
BIRMINGHAM (0) 0 39,081
 Man. Utd: Bailey, Nicholl, Albiston, Duxbury, McQueen, Buchan, Coppell, Birtles, Jordan, Macari, Thomas (McIlroy).
 Birmingham: Wealands, Langan, Broadhurst, Curbishley, Gallagher, Todd, Ainscow, Bertschin (Lynex), Worthington, Gemmill, Dillon.

MIDDLESBROUGH (0) 2 (Armstrong, McAndrew pen)
CRYSTAL PALACE (0) 0 16,099
 Middlesbrough: Platt, Nattrass, Bailey, Hedley, Ashcroft (Shearer), McAndrew, Cochrane, Proctor, Hodgson, Jankovic, Armstrong.
 C. Palace: Gennoe, Hinshelwood, Boyle, Nicholas, Cannon, Gilbert, Lovell, Brooks (Goodchild), Sealy, Allen, Smillie.

NOTTM. FOREST (1) 1 (Burns)
EVERTON (0) 0 25,611
 Nottm. Forest: Shilton, Anderson, Gray, McGovern, Burns, Gunn, Ponte, Wallace, Francis, Walsh, Robertson.
 Everton: Hodge, Ratcliffe, Bailey, Wright, Lyons, Ross, McMahon, Eastoe, Varadi, Hartford, O'Keefe (McBride).

SOUTHAMPTON (2) 2 (Keegan 2)
SUNDERLAND (0) 1 (Chisholm) 21,345
 Southampton: Wells, Golac, Holmes, Williams, Watson, Nicholl, Keegan, Channon, George, Moran, Waldron.
 Sunderland: Siddall, Whitworth, Bolton, Elliott, Hindmarch, Rowell, Arnott (Ritchie), Bowyer, Hawley, Chisholm, Cummins.

WOLVES (0) 2 (Eves, Gray)
WBA (0) 0 29,764
 Wolves: Bradshaw, Palmer, Parkin, Daniel (Bell), Berry, McAlle, Hibbitt, Atkinson, Gray, Richards, Eves.
 WBA: Godden, Batson, Statham, Moses, Wile, Bennett, Robson, Mills, Regis, Owen, Barnes.

Second Division

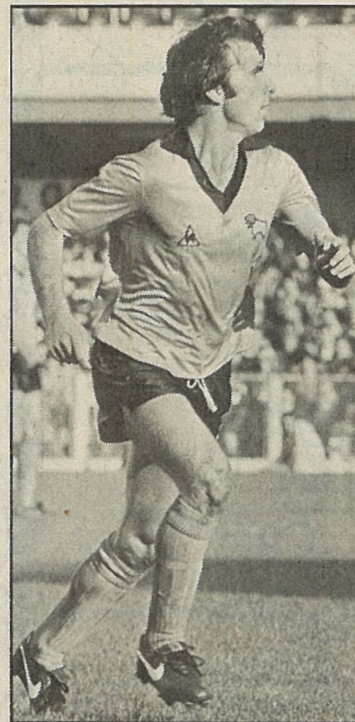
BLACKBURN (2) 2 (Burke, Lowey)
ORIENT (0) 0 9,091
 Blackburn: Arnold, Branagan, Rathbone, Kendall, Keeley, Fazackerley, Brotherston, Garner, Lowey, Burke, Speight.
 Orient: Day, Fisher, Roffey, Taylor T, Moores, Parsons, Chiedozi, Margerrison, Jennings, Moses, Taylor P.

BRISTOL ROVERS 0
BRISTOL CITY 0 10,087
 Bristol Rovers: Kite, Gillies, Jones, Williams, Hughes, Cooper, Emmanuel, Lee, Mabbutt, Randall, Barrowclough.
 Bristol City: Shaw, Sweeney, Hay, Aitken, Rodgers (Pritchard), Marshall, Tainton, Fitzpatrick, Mabbutt, Mann, Whitehead.

CARDIFF (0) 0
OLDHAM (1) 2 (Palmer, Nuttall) 5,687
 Cardiff: Healey, Jones, Thomas, Dwyer (Hughes), Pontin, Maddy, Ronson, Giles, Buchanan, Kitchen, Davies.
 Oldham: Platt, Sinclair, Blair, Edwards, Clements, Hurst, Hilton, McDonough, Palmer, Keegan, Nuttall.

CHELSEA (2) 3 (Mayes, Lee pen, Filéry)
SHREWSBURY (0) 0 14,673
 Chelsea: Borota, Locke, Rofe, Bumstead, Droy, Chivers, Viljoen, Filéry, Lee, Walker, Mayes.
 Shrewsbury: Wardle, King, Leonard, Turner, Griffin, Keay, Tong, Atkins, Bates, McLaren, Cross (Dungworth).

DERBY (1) 2 (Wilson, Hector)
LUTON (0) 2 (Moss, Ingram) 16,479
 Derby: Jones, Emery, Buckley, Powell S, McFarland, Osgood, Powell B, Hector, Biley, Wilson, Elmes.
 Luton: Findlay, Stephens, Donaghy, Turner, West, Price, Hill, Stein, Ingram, Fuccillo, Moss.



Kevin Hector of Derby.

NEWCASTLE (1) 2 (Clarke, Martin)
BOLTON (0) 1 (Bennett) 19,108
 Newcastle: Carr, Carney, Johnson, Martin, Boam, Halliday, Shinton, Treweek, Clarke, Wharton, Waddle.
 Bolton: Peacock, Graham, McElhinney, Wilson, Jones, Brennan, Nikolic, Whatmore, Hoggan, Kidd, Bennett.

SHEFFIELD WED (0) 1 (Mirocevic)
NOTTS COUNTY (1) 2 (Christie, McCulloch) 22,449
 Sheff. Wed: Bolder, Blackhall, Williamson, Smith, Shirliff, Sterland, Pearson, Johnson, Leman (Mirocevic), McCulloch, Curran.
 Notts County: Avramovic, Benjamin, O'Brien, Kelly (Harkouk), Kilcline, Richards, McCulloch, Masson, Christie, Hunt, Hooks.

SWANSEA (1) 1 (Stevenson)
QPR (2) 2 (Langley, King) 12,518
 Swansea: Stewart, Attley, Hadziabdic, Mahoney, Charles, Stevenson, Giles (Robinson), James R, Curtis, Toshack, James L.
 QPR: Burridge, Shanks, Gillard, Fenwick, Wicks, Roeder, Langley, King, Stainrod (Waddock), Currie, Silkman.

WATFORD 0
CAMBRIDGE 0 11,944
 Watford: Sherwood, Rice, Harrison, Taylor, Sims, Jackett, Armstrong, Poskett, Jenkins, Train, Blissett.
 Cambridge: Key, Donaldson, Murray, Smith, Fallon, Finney, Streete, Spriggs, Reilly, Turner, Gibbins.

WEST HAM (2) 5 (Goddard, Pike, Lampard, Devonshire 2)
PRESTON (0) 0 26,413
 West Ham: Parkes, Stewart, Lampard, Bonds, Martin, Devonshire, Neighbour, Goddard, Cross, Brooking, Pike.
 Preston: Tunks, Westwell, McAteer, Bell, Baxter, O'Riordan, Doyle, Coleman, Elliott, McGee (Sayer), Houston.

WREXHAM (0) 0
GRIMSBY (1) 2 (Cumming 2) 5,619
 Wrexham: Davies, Hill, Kenworthy, Jones, Cegielski (Vinter), Arkwright, Fox, Sutton, Edwards, McNeil, Cartwright.
 Grimsby: Batch, Stone, Crombie, Waters, Wigginton, Moore, Broily, Whymark, Drinkell, Mitchell, Cumming.

Third Division

BARNLEY (1) 3 (Banks, Parker, Riley)
GILLINGHAM (2) 3 (White, Lee, Price) 13,703

BLACKPOOL (1) 1 (Ball pen)
HUDDERSFIELD (1) 2 (Austin 2) 9,431

CARLISLE (3) 3 (Campbell, Staniforth, Storton (o.g.))
CHESTER (0) 0 3,282

CHARLTON (1) 1 (Walsh)
PLYMOUTH (0) 1 (Kemp) 8,127

CHESTERFIELD (2) 3 (Hunter, Kowalski, Birch)
BURNLEY (0) 0 8,635

EXETER (1) 1 (Hoolickin (o.g.))
HULL (1) 3 (Marwood, McClaren, Mutrie) 5,022

FULHAM (0) 2 (Davies, Mahoney)
SWINDON (0) 0 4,785

MILLWALL 0
NEWPORT 0 4,913

OXFORD (1) 2 (Thomas, Foley)
SHEFFIELD UNITED (0) 0 4,427

READING 0
BRENTFORD 0 6,129

ROTHERHAM (1) 3 (Seasman 2, Towner)
ROTHSOUTH (0) 0 7,588

WALSALL (2) 3 (Waddington (P), Mower, Smith)
COLCHESTER (0) 1 (Allinson) 3,195

Fourth Division

BURY 0
HALIFAX 0 3,144

CREWE 0
ALDERSHOT 0 2,455

HARTLEPOOL (1) 2 (Houchen 2 (1 pen))
ROTHDALE (0) 2 (Taylor, Esser) 3,819

HEREFORD (2) 2 (Showers, White pen)
MANSFIELD (0) 1 (Lumby pen) 2,672

NORTHAMPTON (0) 0
BOURNEMOUTH (0) 1 (Smith) 2,140

PETERBOROUGH (0) 0
DONCASTER (0) 1 (Nimmo) 6,147

PORT VALE (1) 2 (Miller 2)
WIMBLEDON (1) 3 (Cork, Hodges, Smith) 2,372

SCUNTHORPE (1) 1 (Cammack)
BRADFORD (0) 0 2,558

WIGAN (0) 0
LINCOLN (0) 2 (Cunningham, Turner) 5,190

Torquay v. York postponed.

Scottish Premier

AIRDIE (0) 0
DUNDEE UNITED (0) 5 (Bannon pen, Sturrock, Dodds 3) 3,000
 Airdrie: Martin, Kennedy (Erwin), Anderson, Walker, March, McCluskey, McKeown (Thomson), Clark, McGuire, Gordon, Russell.
 Dundee United: McAlpine, Phillip, Kopel, Addison, Hegarty, Narey, Bannon, Payne, Kirkwood, Sturrock, Dodds.

HEARTS (0) 0
CELTIC (1) 3 (Burns, Sullivan, McGarvey) 14,596

Hearts: Brough, Hamilton, Shields, More, Liddle, Mackay (White), Kidd, MacDonald, Gibson (McShane), Hammill, O'Brien.
 Celtic: Bonner, McGrain, Reid, Sullivan, McAdam, Aitken, Provan, Conroy, McGarvey, Burns, Nicholas (McCluskey).



YOU ARE THE REF

Compiled by CLIVE THOMAS

1

When you restart a game with a drop ball a player touches it before it hits the ground. Should you (a) drop the ball again or (b) award an indirect free-kick?



2

A substitute standing by the opposing team's goal distracts the goalkeeper just before the ball goes into goal. After sending the sub to the dressing-room should you (a) allow a goal or (b) drop the ball?



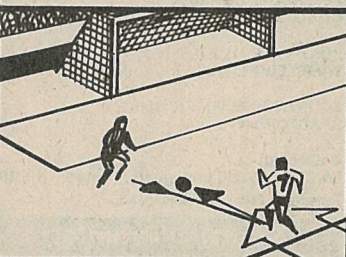
3

A defender uses a knee to charge an opponent off the ball in the penalty-area. Should you (a) award an indirect free-kick or (b) a penalty?



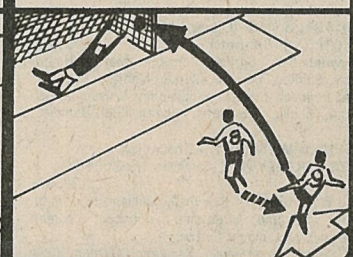
4

A short goal-kick is returned to the 'keeper before it has left the penalty-area. Should you (a) take no action or (b) have the goal-kick retaken?



5

A player back-heels a penalty to a team-mate, who runs in and scores. Should you (a) award a goal or (b) retake the kick?



ANSWERS

1. Drop the ball again (a). 2. Drop the ball (b). 3. A penalty (b). 4. Have the goal-kick retaken (b). In the match between Southampton and Chelsea in the F.A. Cup Third Round, Chelsea keeper Peter Borota took a goal-kick to Gary Locke. The ball was slowly going to him when Mike Channon ran towards it. Gary deliberately went into the penalty-area and touched the ball. I had to have the goal-kick retaken. I warned Gary if he did that again I would caution him. 5. Retake the kick (b).

The rain in Spain...

FREAK weather conditions in Spain recently led to several matches being postponed ... due to snowfalls!

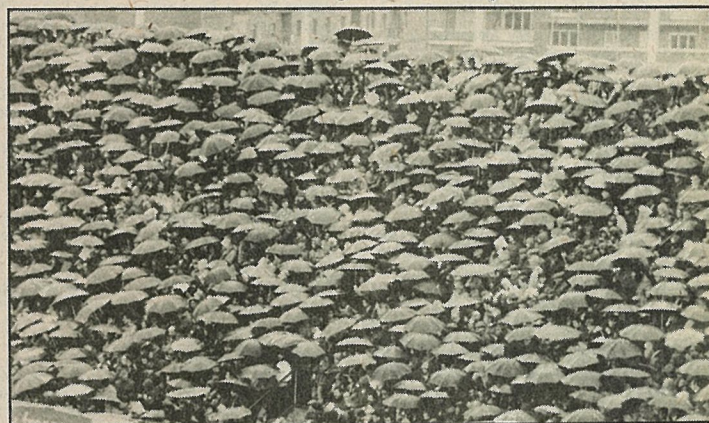
And there was a picturesque start to the passion-packed local derby between Español and Barcelona when Helenio Herrera's Barcelona squad found themselves snowed-in at their hotel in the hills just outside the city!

Approach roads were blocked by snowdrifts, and snowploughs were unable to clear them, thanks to hundreds of abandoned cars littering the streets.

The team eventually arrived at the ground an hour late, after a hectic journey in a fire-engine; by underground; and on foot!

The kick-off was delayed in order to give Barcelona time to change (and get their breath back). But, to round off a bleak day, Barcelona lost 1-0.

● Picture shows Barcelona fans during a sudden downpour.



Look here...

IN the 43rd minute of the Spanish League match between Sporting Gijón and Hercules, referee Martin Navarrete disallowed what looked to be a perfectly good goal scored by visiting striker Churrua.

Hercules winger Megido raced up to protest, and was promptly shown the yellow card. Then, to everyone's amazement, the ref showed him the red card!

After the match (won 3-1 by Gijón) the referee revealed he'd sent Megido to the dressing-rooms because he'd given him "a threatening look."

I've heard that looks can kill, but this is ridiculous!

THERE'S tremendous controversy in Peru about the decision to play their World Cup qualifiers against Uruguay and Colombia at Puno, about 820 miles from the capital, Lima.

Puno is up on the Collao Plateau alongside Lake Titicaca at an altitude of ... wait for it ... 11,850 feet!

The Peruvians are obviously hoping to pull a fast one on group favourites Uruguay, who play all their football at sea level and will find breathing difficult among the peaks at Puno.

Brazilian superstar Zico has just been given another salary increase by his club Flamengo. His 20 per cent rise brings his monthly pay to £9,475 plus bonuses.

PLEASE DON'T GO...



URUGUAY, still flush from their Copa de Oro success, have confirmed that manager Roque Maspoli (63) will stay in charge until the 1982 World Cup Finals.

Maspoli's problem is that many of the brilliant young Uruguayans caught the eye of the rich European and South American clubs. He hopes that a complete ban on transfers abroad can be imposed; or at the least a clause is written in the player's contract that he is released 45 days prior to the opening day of the World Cup.

For the Gold Cup, Maspoli (left) refused to recall any of the 200 Uruguayans playing abroad — a frightening number when you consider it's one-third of all professionals in Uruguay.

He preferred to select a young team and says: "We can do well in 1982 provided I can continue to work with these boys and they aren't sold abroad. Don't forget our population is less than three million and it isn't easy to replace good players quickly."

Who has Laurie's lolly?

THERE'S a row brewing in Spain about Laurie Cunningham's £5,500 fine — because the Football Federation are trying to lay their hands on the cash!

Spain's regulations concerning fines are somewhat complicated, and certain types of discipline entail fines which must be paid to the authorities and not to the club.

The Federation of Castilla want Laurie's million pesetas, while Real's president Luis de Carlos maintains the fine was strictly an internal affair and that the cash will be used to improve the lighting at the club's training ground.

NEESKENS TO PLAY FOR HOLLAND AGAIN?



JOHAN Neeskens is about to head back to New York to rejoin the Cosmos after months of seclusion and cloak-and-dagger secrecy as to his whereabouts.

In the meantime, the Press all over the Continent had carried stories about the Dutch international's astonishing decline into a 'dolce vita' existence totally incompatible with his role as one of Europe's top midfielders.

Neeskens refused to answer the allegations and systematically

avoided all contact with the media, by simply 'disappearing'. But a Spanish reporter, Luis Miguel Lainz, finally ran him to earth in Barcelona after some sterling detective work, and discovered that Johan had been living a quiet family life with wife Marianne and son Christian during the U.S. close season.

"I'm determined to prove that I'm still a top footballer," Johan told the reporter. "The things that people have been saying about me are not true. I've been living here quietly and doing about three miles jogging every day to keep myself in trim, apart from the gym exercises I do at home in the flat."

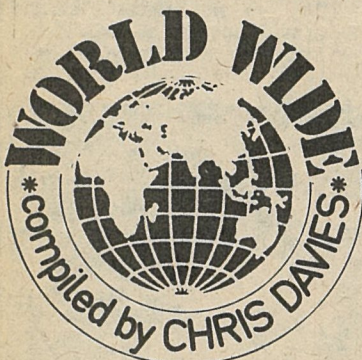
"I admit things have not been at all well with me, but more than anything I needed someone to tell me how to maintain a healthy diet, and someone to help get my nerves back into some sort of shape."

"I felt really odd — sort of lost. Anyway, that's in the past. Now I want to go back to the Cosmos and prove my worth again."

"If they don't want me, I've had interesting offers from French, German and English clubs. What's more, I've been approached with a view to going back to the Dutch national team for the World Cup matches, and this is something I'm very interested in."

"I'm starting all over again, and 1981 could be very good for me..."

Let's hope that the likeable and talented Dutchman is right.



RYSZARD KULESZA, manager of Poland's national team for the last two and a half years, has been dismissed and replaced by Antoni Piechniczek.

Kulesza's full record was not at all bad; won 15, drawn seven, lost seven for 51 goals to 25.

In 1980 Poland won 2-1 away to Spain and on a South American tour last July Poland beat Bolivia (1-0), Colombia (4-1) and drew 1-1 with Brazil in Sao Paulo.

But the row with players before the match against Malta apparently swung the F.A., even though they suspended the players involved. Apparently unable to control his players because one of them was said to be drunk, Kulesza got the axe.

Piechniczek is the 28th manager appointed to look after Poland's national team since they first had an official manager in 1921.

But the most successful of all Poland's managers was Kazimierz Gorski who ran the side from 1971 to 1976 and took Poland to third place in the 1974 World Cup.

THE French League restarted five minutes late after the winter break!

After a referee had been seriously assaulted during a Fourth Division match at Bastia, officials on the other side of the Channel initially decided to take strike action, but later voted to begin all matches five minutes late as a sign of protest.

By the way, the players seemed unenthusiastic about getting back into serious action — eight of the ten matches played ended as draws and only 22 goals were scored!

DIEGO MARADONA is without doubt Argentina's highest-paid footballer, but some of River Plate's international stars didn't do too badly last season as River romped home in the Metropolitan Championship.

Argentine international 'keeper Pato Fillol picked up £196,500 including bonuses; skipper Daniel Passarella pocketed £151,750.

Some sportsmanship!

IN COLOMBIA, two Brazilian players (both with Millionarios) have caused a sensation with allegations that some opponents have been anointing their hands with a menthol compound — and rubbing it in opponents' eyes during the match to impair their vision.

They also allege that at some grounds the ball-boys have instructions to puncture the ball if the home team is winning, in order to waste time!

FEW GOALS



LIAM BRADY'S Juventus aren't exactly setting the Italian League alight this season with an average of just a fraction over a goal per game. And only in the land of spaghetti could a team be third in the League with only four victories to their credit! Paolo Rossi's club, Perugia, take the biscuit. In their opening 14 games their goal tally read 8 for and 9 against...

PANATHINAIKOS have been having their ups and downs recently, and the Greek club's latest problem concerns their Argentine-born player Juan Publis, who produced documents to convince the authorities that he was of Greek descent — and therefore eligible to play.

It now appears that the papers were forged...

SPANISH club Sevilla have finally clinched the signing of Brazilian international midfielder Carlos Alberto Gomes, alias Pintinho. The signing took months, with Pintinho initially refusing to move to Spain because his grandmother was ill. He's now found the solution — he's bringing his grandmother with him.

News flashes

● Spain are to play a series of six friendly matches during a 17-day tour of South America this summer. It seems odd that the 1982 World Cup hosts should prepare for the event by playing a series of away games on a different continent!

● Bolivia are to appeal to FIFA following the refusal of Mexican club Toluca to release international striker Jesus Reynaldo for the World Cup qualifiers against Brazil and Venezuela.

● Panionios manager Costas Petropoulos fined three of his players for sneaking out of their hotel rooms and watching the Copa de Oro Final on TV until 1 a.m. On the following day, Panionios lost 3-2.

● Barcelona finally clinched the title in Ecuador by beating Técnico Universitario 3-0 in the third meeting between the two clubs. Both will represent Ecuador in the Copa Libertadores this year.



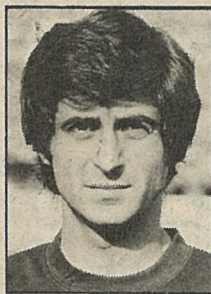
● Former manager of Brazil Claudio Coutinho (above) has signed a two-year contract with the Los Angeles Aztecs.
● Spanish club Las Palmas are running short

of players after suspending four of their squad for fighting during training sessions. Felo and Roque were the first pair to indulge in a punch-up during a practice match. And days later, Jorge and Esté came to blows after disputing a 50-50 ball...

● French team St. Etienne made the most of their mid-winter break in the League programme to undertake a one-week tour in... Tahiti.

● Poland's Footballer of the Year is midfielder Piotr Skrobowski, who made his international debut during the year and did very well. He plays for Wisla Krakow, and the poll was limited to football journalists and commentators.

● Gianni Rivera (below), the former golden boy of AC Milan, has been appointed director with special responsibilities for watching and engaging new foreign players, in readiness for his club winning promotion.



● West Germany's F.A., the DFB, have announced the results of their annual head-count. They have more than 4,300,000 registered players. Bavaria, centred on Munich, has the most — 888,483.

● Belgian League leaders Anderlecht have signed the Paraguayan

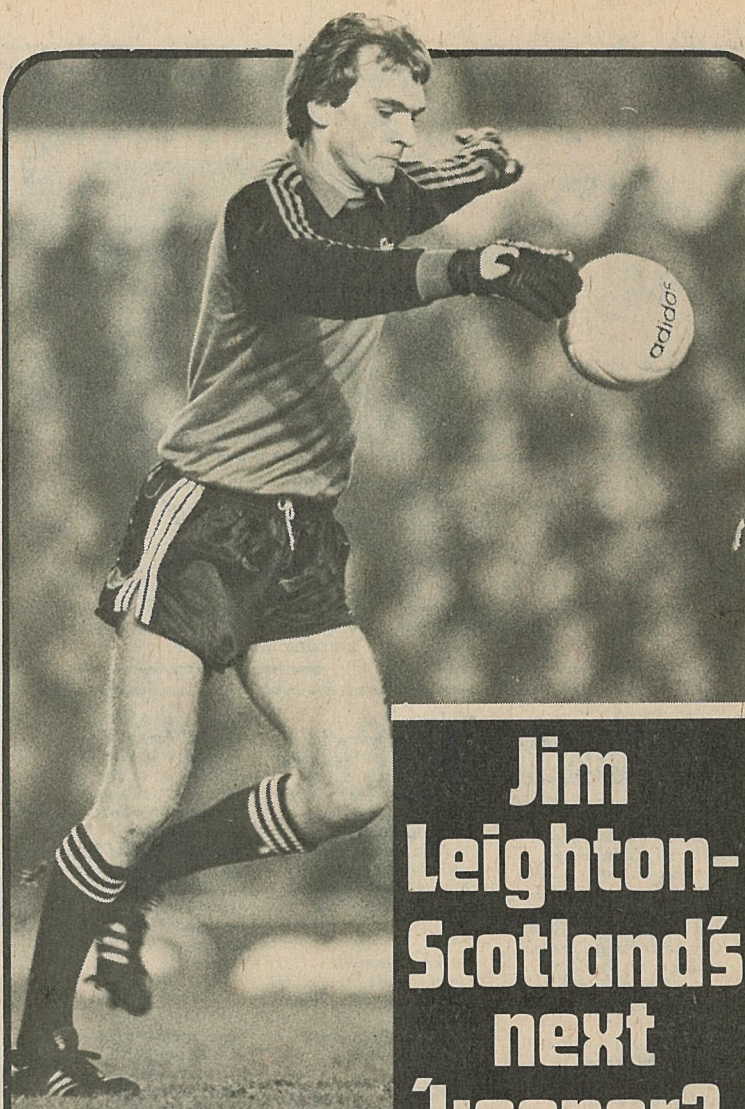
Juan Lozano for only £85,000. Formerly with Royal Antwerp he left Belgium last spring to play for Washington Diplomats, but with the American club in financial difficulties, they are releasing their players at bargain prices. Lozano is the sixth foreigner engaged by Anderlecht for this season.

● Dynamo Dresden are East Germany's most popular club so far with an average 19,538 spectators per game at home and away — more than 5,000 per game above the figure for Champions Dynamo Berlin.

● Hamburger SV have solved one of their biggest headaches. International centre-forward Horst Hrubesch (below) was keen to accept an outstanding offer from Juventus, but has been persuaded to sign a new contract to the end of June, 1983. Under this he is guaranteed £125,000 a year.



● Hopeful of qualifying for the World Cup, the Belgian FA has agreed to two extra internationals for next season, even though their team is very badly supported at home. On December 16th Belgium will be at home to Spain, and on March 24th 1982, just before the World Cup, Belgium will play a return game in Spain, hopefully at the venue where they will play First Round games in the big competition.



Jim Leighton-Scotland's next 'keeper'?

AS a goal-hungry striker with five clubs, Alex Ferguson believed in making life extremely difficult for rival goalkeepers.

While with Queen's Park, St Johnstone, Dunfermline, Rangers and Falkirk, fiery Fergie was a leading marksman and even now that he is manager of Aberdeen is still tough on the poor old number one. He doesn't believe in the soft-soap approach, and young Jim Leighton certainly found that out during his first full season in the top team.

Leighton, taking over from injured veteran Bobby Clark, had the best record of any Premier Division 'keeper when Ferguson said: "Yes, he's doing well, but he is far from the finished article and he must realise this."

'Pressure'

"He's still got a lot to do, but I've got to say I am happy with his progress. He has dealt well with the pressure and is learning something new in every game."

Leighton's fine form might have pleased any other manager considering he was thrown in at the deep end following the injury to regular 'keeper Clark, the former Scottish international.

"It was hard luck on Bobby," said Jim, "but I knew it was my big chance. I had played first team games before, but hadn't really settled into an extended run."

"When I got in at the start of the season I was determined to stay there. Once you have got a taste of

first team football it is difficult to accept anything else.

"I'm as ambitious as any other player at Aberdeen. We are going places and I want to be there all the way."

Leighton's form has been a real eye-opener for Scotland manager Jock Stein, who is always on the look-out for ready-made material for his international sides.

The young Don had already been capped at Under-21 level, but his consistent and competent displays in the Aberdeen first team suggested that he could cope with something bigger in the future.

"I've always said that Jim had what it takes to become a first class 'keeper," says Clark.

"I trained with him and couldn't help being impressed. In fact, when he and John Gardiner first joined the club I said one of them would have to move on to further his career."

"Jim and John were both the same age and it would have been unfair for one of them to be stuck in the shadows. John eventually left for Dundee United and Jim stayed with us."

Now Leighton is determined to go all the way to the top in soccer. His safe handling, confidence, agility and all-round composure make him a 'keeper who will certainly put more pressure on Alan Rough and company in the future.

FIGHTING STAGS

MICK Jones, Mansfield Town's enterprising manager, has turned the struggling Nottinghamshire club "inside out" over the past 18 months. What he has also achieved is to turn them round — because The Stags are fighting back!

Two relegations in three seasons dragged them from the Second Division to the Fourth. Now, after the misery of last season's depressing exit from the Third Division, a promotion challenge is finally being thundered out at Field Mill.

"Frankly, I couldn't wait for last summer," says Jones, who took over Mansfield on the opening day of last season. "You accept that you get a chance in management only because something is wrong within the club."

"The problem with trying to get it right during the season is that you are looking to get the players you want playing your way — but, at the same time, chasing the two points. Inevitably, you have to select players you don't want in the team just for the sake of those precious points."

'Sort Out'

"The summer gave me the chance I wanted to sort out the staff. Now we have just three first team players from last season in the side: skipper Kevin Bird, goalkeeper Rod Arnold and defender Ian Wood."

"There has been a complete change of direction. Alongside these three, we have one 19-year-old, five 20-year-olds and one 21-year-old. We are a team packed with pace — in fact, there isn't one slow player at the club and any side with that asset takes some handling."

Skipper Bird, with over 300 first team appearances, says: "The youngsters are helping us out! Their enthusiasm and fluent, quick attacking style has spread throughout the club. It is a tremendous feeling after the recent seasons of disappointments."

Manager Jones has produced a string of outstanding prospects, including striker Dave Caldwell, a 20-year-old from Inverness Caledonian who is producing a rush of goals towards Mansfield's promotion drive. Last season he made one appearance: now he could finish as top scorer in his first regular spell.

"News of his ability is spreading fast around the game," admits youthful manager Jones, who formerly played for Derby, Peterborough and Notts County. "Like all our young players, he has real pace — plus strength and the priceless ability of being a confident finisher."

The Scot has lined up in a powerful strike force of Brian Thompson, who played only five full games last season, and Mansfield's expensive signing from

Tranmere, Jim Lumby. Between them, they are collecting the goals so important to Mansfield as they battle to turn the tide.

"I don't think that there is any danger that Dave, Brian and the other youngsters will 'dry up' now we are on the threshold of promotion," says Bird. "I appreciate the argument about this being a time when experience counts — but that does not allow for the spirit within this club."

"Every time we take the pitch nowadays, we believe that we are going to win. That has been the big change within this club over the last few months."

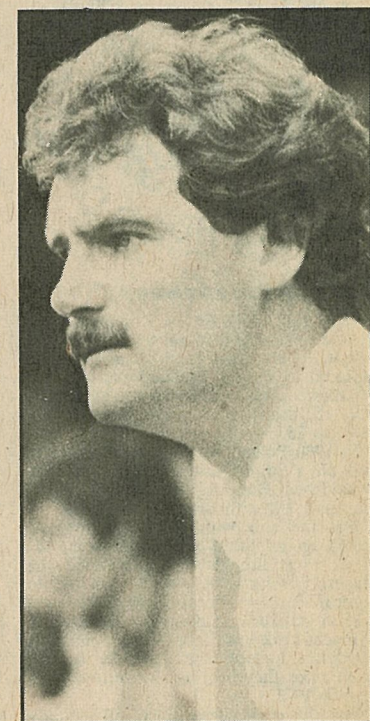
"We have had a bad time in recent seasons, but I'm convinced they are behind us. Looking back at our season in the Second Division, people do not realise that we would have stayed there if we had not missed nine penalties — which were worth nine points."

"Once the slide started, we just could not put on the brakes, no matter how hard we worked. Huddersfield and Hereford have gone through just the same experience."

"The manager has put those days behind us at last. He has done a tremendous job in turning over the side and coming up with the right answers."

Jones adds: "We are all in it together and sharing the same attitudes. The youthfulness of the side has made us all feel young. That goes for senior players in the twilight of their careers and for me as well."

"We are not getting carried away with success at last... but we know that we are on the right lines. This club is on its way back."



Mansfield boss Mick Jones

CLUB SPOTLIGHT

OF all football's fallen giants, the appearance of Burnley's name in the lower half of the Football League makes for the saddest reading.

League Champions as recently as 1960, they are currently languishing on the fringe of the Third Division promotion race.

Yet die-hard followers of the Turf Moor club — and there are precious few of those to be found nowadays — find no sympathy from current manager Brian Miller.

The blunt Lancastrian who has spent his entire career in the game at Burnley states: "I suppose you have to say this club has been in decline since 1968.

"We had an outstanding team until then, but the standards have gradually slipped over the past 13 years. It is about time we stopped talking about former glories and did something positive about improving our position."

At the turn of the year, Burnley lay comfortably positioned in third place and looked strong contenders for immediate promotion back to the Second Division.

But three postponed games, four injured players and one under suspension, plus defeats by promotion rivals Portsmouth and Chesterfield all combined to send Burnley down to seventh position, eight points behind leaders Charlton.



Brian Laws (left) and Derek Scott close in to tackle Fulham's Ronnie Goodlass at Craven Cottage this season.

Dobson boosts the Burnley kids

Yet Miller remains confident that his side can still clinch promotion.

"Given a free run from injuries and a settled side from now until May, I think we will go up," he says. "We have had to survive on gradually diminishing attendances, but that is something we have become accustomed to over the years.

"We can't afford to buy our way out of a tight spot, but I believe we have constructed the right blend of youthful enthusiasm and experienced know-how to get us back into the Second Division."

Impact

Miller speaks with pride and satisfaction of the current crop of talented teenagers making an impact in his side, but he reserves his most glowing praise for captain Martin Dobson.

The former England international, who returned to Turf Moor from Everton during the summer of 1979, has played a starring role at the heart of the Burnley defence.

"Without Martin, I doubt whether I would have been able to have given so many youngsters a chance in the first team," Miller continues.

"He has had a steadying influence that has created an air of confidence right through the side. Now we have Northern Ireland internationals Tommy Cassidy and Billy Hamilton to help him, the younger lads are learning something new with every game."

At the beginning of the season, Miller had a massive clear-out at Turf Moor, pruning his professional playing staff to 22. Half of those are under the age of 20.

"That has probably been our biggest problem this season," Miller admits. "When we have come up against sides like Barnsley and Rotherham, whose strength is in their physical ability, we have fallen down.

"With so many young lads in the side, we are lacking in height and weight, and when we come up against bigger players it has been a bit of a problem."

Of the youngsters making their mark, Miller is particularly impressed by teenagers Brian Laws, Vince Overson, Kevin Young and Phil Cavenor.

"They have all done well, and what is particularly encouraging is that there are plenty more coming through and ready for their chance."

Miller, himself a Burnley player throughout his career, has succeeded in building up a strong sense of loyalty to the club at Turf Moor.

Coach Frank Casper made close on 300 League appearances for Burnley, while captain Dobson has 250 games for them to his credit. Alan Stevenson, Billy Rodaway and Jim Thomson have a combined total of more than 700

HONOURS

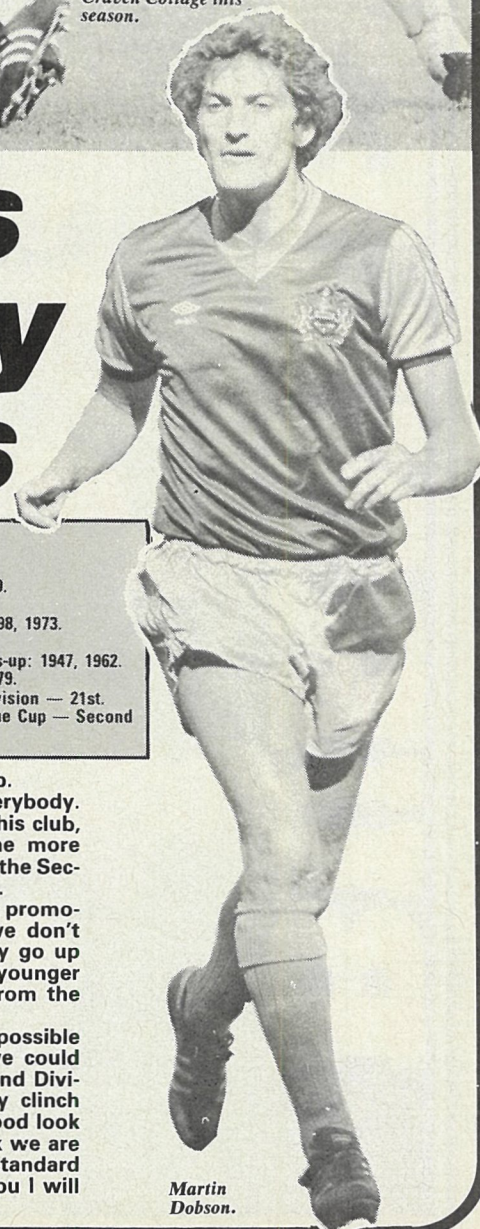
League Champions:— 1921, 1960.
Runners-up:— 1920, 1962.
Second Division Champions: 1898, 1973.
Runners-up: 1913, 1947.
F.A. Cup winners: 1914. Runners-up: 1947, 1962.
Anglo-Scottish Cup winners: 1979.
Record last season: Second Division — 21st.
F.A. Cup — Fourth Round. League Cup — Second Round.

League games for the club.

"It helps to motivate everybody. We are all committed to this club, and that makes us all the more determined to get back to the Second Division," Miller adds.

"I think we can still gain promotion this season, but if we don't make it, we will definitely go up next season, when our younger lads will have benefited from the extra year's experience.

"At the moment it is impossible for me to say whether we could hold our own in the Second Division. When we eventually clinch promotion, I will take a good look at the side. If I don't think we are good enough for a higher standard of football, I can assure you I will do something about it."



Martin Dobson.

BURNLEY

BACK ROW (left to right): Phil Cavener, Stuart Robertson, Billy Ingham, Joe Jakub, Derek Scott, Kevin Young.
MIDDLE ROW: Billy Rodaway, David Holt, Paul Dixon, Alan Stevenson, Steve Taylor, Ian Brennan, Ian Wood.
FRONT ROW: Jim Thomson, Vince Ovenson, Martin Dobson, Tommy Cassidy, Billy Hamilton.



SHOOT!



STEVE WILLIAMS
Southampton

SHOOT!

WHAT was happening to your team on this third week in February, 1971 — ten years ago? The League tables on this page may cause you a few surprises.

Look at Aston Villa — in Division Three and beaten 3-1 by Bury! But although they were then second on the table they failed to gain promotion at the end of the season.

Things weren't going too well either for the "B's" of Lancashire, Blackpool, Burnley, Bolton and Blackburn.

All four were relegated and Blackpool and Burnley are now fellow Third Divisioners.

Things were a bit different in Nottingham in February, 1971. Forest were struggling near the foot of Division One (they lost 20 games that season) but County were the outstanding stars of

captain Steve Perryman. Pat Jennings was the Tottenham 'keeper that day.

On Feb. 20, 1971, you will see that Leeds United and Arsenal were battling away at the top of Division One. Both had good

victories.

Leeds walloped Championship chasers Wolves with Allan Clarke (now United's manager) and Paul Madeley (now in his last season at the club) among the goalscorers.

In the Arsenal-Ipswich tussle,

A fascinating look back at the state of the League ten years ago this weekend.

Four goal Gowling slams Saints



Charlie George, in his first League season, received rave reports in the Press as The Gunners' 20-year-old "wonder boy".

But no member of that Arsenal side who achieved the League and Cup double at the end of that season is now with the Highbury club, and only one of the Ipswich side, beaten 2-3 by The Gunners ten years ago, is still with the club — skipper Mick Mills.

Another tense match on February 20, 1971, was at Upton Park where over 30,000 fans watched the goalless draw



Division Four.

They lost only seven of their 46 games, took the section title with 69 points with a goals total of 89 for and only 36 against.

Let's look in detail at some of those games on February 20, 1971.

Two players scored four goals each — Alan Gowling for Manchester United, and Birmingham's 16-year-old wonder boy, Trevor Francis, playing in only his third League match. His 15 goals in 21 Second Division games that season was a remarkable feat.

On that same day Bryan 'Pop' Robson scored his last goal for Newcastle in the 1-0 victory over Spurs. Two days later he was transferred to West Ham.

Only one of the Tottenham team who played against Newcastle is still with Spurs — their present

DIVISION ONE

ARSENAL (3).....3	IPSWICH (0).....2
George, Radford, McIntock	Robertson 2 — 39,822
BLACKPOOL (0).....0	DERBY (1).....1
	O'Hare — 17,892
C PALACE (0).....1	COVENTRY (0).....2
Birchall	Carr 2 — 24,114
EVERTON (0).....0	LIVERPOOL (0).....0
	57,000
LEEDS (1).....3	WOLVES (0).....0
Clarke, Madeley, Giles (pen)	37,273
MAN UTD (4).....5	SO'TON (0).....1
Gowling 4, Morgan	Gabriel — 36,060
NEWCASTLE (0).....1	TOTTENHAM (0).....0
Robson	31,780
NOTTM FOR (1).....1	BURNLEY (0).....0
Moore	20,858
STOKE (0).....1	CHELSEA (0).....2
Conroy	Hutchinson, Smethurst — 26,959
WEST BROM (0).....2	HUDDERSFLD (0).....1
Brown 2	Worthington — 18,325
WEST HAM (0).....0	MAN CITY (0).....0
	30,168

DIVISION TWO

BIRMINGHAM (2).....4	BOLTON (0).....0
Francis 4	25,600
BLACKBURN (0).....0	CARLISLE (1).....2
	Balderstone, Martin — 9,195
BRISTOL CITY (2).....3	MILLWALL (0).....2
Wimshurst, Gow, Fear	Cripps, Bridges — 10,578
CARDIFF (1).....1	CHARLTON (0).....1
Gibson (pen)	Shipperley — 18,034
LEICESTER (0).....2	NORWICH (1).....1
Fern, Partridge	Foggo — 24,866
MIDDLESBRO (1).....1	SHEFF WED (0).....0
Hickton	25,196
PORTSMOUTH (0).....0	LUTON (1).....1
	Givens — 13,661
Q.P.R. (1).....1	HULL (0).....1
Marsh	Wagstaff — 13,418
SHEFF UTD (0).....1	SUNDERLAND (0).....0
Hemsley	24,944
SWINDON (2).....3	OXFORD (0).....0
Noble, Porter, Rogers (pen)	17,744
WATFORD (0).....0	ORIENT (0).....0
	14,336

	Home			Away			Goals		
	P	W	D	L	W	D	L	F	A
Leeds	29	11	2	2	8	5	1	50	20
Arsenal	28	12	3	0	6	3	4	51	23
Chelsea	30	8	4	2	6	6	4	41	33
Wolves	29	9	2	3	6	4	5	48	44
Liverpl	29	8	7	0	3	6	5	29	16
Tinham	28	7	4	3	5	5	4	41	27
Man City	28	6	5	2	5	5	5	36	25
Shipton	29	10	3	1	2	5	8	39	32
Coventry	29	8	2	4	4	4	7	27	28
C Palace	29	7	5	3	3	4	7	27	26
Stoke	29	8	6	1	1	4	9	35	35
Everton	29	7	5	2	2	5	8	40	41
Man U	28	5	6	4	4	4	5	40	43
Newcastle	29	6	5	3	3	4	3	30	34
Derby	28	5	3	6	5	4	5	39	39
W Brom	29	8	5	2	0	5	9	43	52
Hdrsfild	29	5	7	3	1	4	9	27	38
Ipswich	27	6	2	5	2	3	9	25	28
Nottm F	27	6	3	5	1	4	8	25	37
W Ham	28	2	6	6	2	4	8	33	48
Blackpl	29	2	5	7	1	3	11	24	52
Burnley	28	2	5	7	0	5	9	19	48



Charlie George, scores for Arsenal against Ipswich (left). Tony 'Bomber' Brown of WBA (below).

Willie Carr in his Coventry days (below).



between West Ham and Manchester City.

It is interesting to note that only two City players remain with the Manchester club — goalie Joe Corrigan and Tommy Booth, while on The Hammers' side there are three "survivors" — Bobby Ferguson, Frank Lampard and skipper Billy Bonds. Trevor Brooking was then not sure of a first team place — imagine it!

It would be unfair not to also mention two great players of the past decade who each hit a

BIG MATCHES OF THE DAY

(Saturday, February 21st, 1981)

Man. City v Man. Utd.

IT is quite remarkable that after 50 League visits to City's ground these neighbouring clubs should be level pegging with 16 wins each and 18 games drawn. On their own ground it is United that hold the upper hand with 21 wins to City's 14, while at Maine Road in recent years United have built up quite a record. Indeed, they have only lost there four times in their last 16 League games.

United (then known as Newton Heath) won their very first League visit to City (at Hyde Road) in November, 1894, when a local inside-left named Smith got four goals in a 5-2 victory. Since then United's highest scores at Maine Road have been four (4-2) in 1956-57 (Whelan, Taylor, Viollet and Edwards), and in 1970-71 (4-3) (Best 2, Charlton, Law). City's biggest home wins over United have been 4-0 in 1898-99 and in 1969-70 (Young, Bell 2 and Sadler o.g.).

Nottm Forest v Arsenal

ARSENAL last won at the City Ground in their great double-winning campaign of 1970-71 when Ray Kennedy, Frank McLintock and Charlie George gave them a 3-0 victory. However, there have only been four League clashes between these two clubs at Nottingham since then and Arsenal succeeded in drawing two of those, so they have quite a good record at the City Ground. Overall they have won ten and drawn seven of their 29 League visits, their biggest victory being in 1960-61 when centre-forward David Herd got a hat-trick in a 5-3 win.

Arsenal beat Forest at Highbury last September when Graham Rix surprised Peter Shilton with a 50th minute free-kick (the only goal of the game) and they must fancy their chances of completing their 7th League double over the Forest on Saturday.

Ipswich v Wolves

IPSWICH Town have the edge on Wolves with 15 wins to 11 with seven drawn and it will be something of a shock if the visitors can improve on their record against the East Anglian club on Saturday.

Earlier in the season Ipswich beat Wolves 2-0 and must be favourites to complete the double. If they do it will be their third win in successive seasons over the Wolves at Portman Road. Two seasons ago Wark 2 (1 pen) and Mariner gave them a 3-1 victory, and last season Butcher got the only goal.

Wolves have only won three times in 16 League visits to Ipswich, the last time being in 1977-78 when Bill Rafferty netted both their goals in a 2-1 victory.

The highest score in League meetings between these two sides was Ipswich Town's 5-2 win on the last Saturday of season 1965-66 when Crawford 2, Baker, Hawkins o.g., and Hegan got the home side's goals.

Aston Villa v Palace

THIS is only the tenth League meeting of these two clubs. So far Villa have won four and Palace three with two games drawn.

But it will be the shock of the day if Palace emerge the victors on Saturday.

DIVISION THREE

BARNLEY (0).....0	PRESTON (0).....1
BRAD CITY (1).....1	Ham — 6,610
Bannister	BRISTOL ROV (0).....1
BURY (1).....3	Gilbert — 6,073
Jones, Rudd,	ASTON VILLA (0).....1
White	Allen o.g. — 7,516
CHESTERFIELD (1).....4	DONCASTER (0).....0
Bird o.g., Randall 2,	8,042
Phelan	PORT VALE (1).....1
FULHAM (2).....4	Green — 10,389
Barrett 2, Earle 2	ROCHDALE (0).....0
GILLINGHAM (0).....0	3,000
HALIFAX (2).....4	TRANMERE (1).....3
Wallace (pen),	Moore, Gill
Rhodes, McCarthy	Dempsey — 4,243
(pen), Lawther	MANSFIELD (0).....1
ROTHERHAM (2).....2	Roberts D — 7,361
Womble, Mullen	PLYMOUTH (0).....1
SHREWSBURY (1).....1	Davey — 3,326
Wood	BRIGHTON (0).....0
SWANSEA (0).....1	7,661
Thomas	WREXHAM (1).....1
WALSALL (1).....3	Smith — 4,039
Seal 2, Morris	

DIVISION FOUR

ALDERSHOT (1).....2	EXETER (1).....2
Brodie, Giles	Gadston, Banks
BARROW (0).....0	— 5,505
BOURNEMTH (0).....0	GRIMSBY (0).....1
CHESTER (1).....1	Hickman — 1,825
McHale	SOUTHPORT (0).....1
COLCHESTER (2).....4	Kelley — 9,664
Lewis 2 (1 pen),	CREWE (0).....0
Mahon, Crawford	5,585
LINCOLN (0).....0	NEWPORT (2).....2
PETERBORO (0).....1	Young, Brown
Moss	— 6,444
SCUNTHORPE (0).....0	NOTTS CO (0).....1
WORKINGTN (2).....3	Masson — 10,849
Massie, Tyrer,	NORTHAMPTN (0).....0
Martin	8,068
YORK (0).....0	DARLINGTON (b).....0
BRENTFORD (0).....0	3,505
	CAMB UTD (0).....1
	Collins (pen)
	— 2,114
	3,053

POSTPONED
Oldham v Hartlepool

	Home	Away	Goals	
P W D L W D L F A Pts				
Preston	30 10 5 0 5 5 5 44 30 40			
A. Villa	31 10 4 2 6 4 5 40 31 40			
Fulham	30 9 5 1 6 4 5 46 28 39			
Halifax	32 12 1 4 3 7 5 53 41 38			
Bristol R	29 9 3 3 4 8 2 52 28 37			
Truax	29 9 4 2 5 3 6 39 31 35			
Chstrid	31 8 6 2 4 4 7 45 27 34			
Rthrm	30 9 6 1 2 4 8 45 43 32			
Mansfld	31 8 4 3 3 6 7 43 49 32			
Swmse	29 8 3 3 2 8 5 42 37 31			
Wrexhm	31 7 5 2 4 3 10 44 47 30			
Brad C	31 5 6 4 5 4 7 32 39 30			
Reading	29 7 5 3 4 3 7 40 52 30			
Brnsley	31 7 4 4 4 3 9 34 38 29			
Walsall	31 9 0 7 2 6 7 40 43 28			
Plymth	30 5 8 3 2 5 7 41 45 27			
Shwsby	29 6 2 5 4 5 7 42 48 27			
Port V	31 6 4 5 4 3 9 37 44 27			
Bury	30 4 6 5 4 3 8 39 42 25			
Rchdale	29 4 6 5 3 5 6 39 46 25			
Trnrm	30 5 7 3 1 5 9 34 44 24			
Dncster	32 3 5 7 4 4 9 31 49 23			
Brightn	28 3 7 4 2 5 7 26 28 22			
Ginghm	30 5 4 6 1 3 11 27 45 19			

	Home	Away	Goals	
P W D L W D L F A Pts				
Notts C	30 13 3 0 8 3 3 58 22 48			
Oldham	31 11 3 2 8 1 6 68 48 42			
Brnmth	31 11 3 2 6 4 5 58 34 41			
Nthmptn	32 12 2 2 4 7 5 45 32 41			
Chester	30 11 1 4 6 1 7 49 38 36			
Drington	31 11 2 2 2 7 7 46 35 35			
Stthport	32 11 0 5 5 3 8 42 38 35			
Cichstr	27 8 2 3 5 5 4 46 32 33			
Pthoro	30 10 2 3 3 4 8 45 45 32			
Exeter	32 8 5 4 4 3 8 49 50 32			
York	29 8 6 0 4 4 10 42 36 31			
Crewe	30 9 1 5 4 4 7 54 56 31			
Stckprt	30 8 6 2 3 3 8 31 39 31			
Wkgntn	28 6 5 2 4 5 6 31 25 30			
Scnthp	31 5 6 5 4 4 5 6 39 43 29			
Aldrsht	29 4 6 3 5 4 7 42 46 28			
Camb U	30 6 7 3 3 3 2 39 34 27			
Lincoln	30 9 1 5 2 3 10 47 43 26			
Southnd	29 5 6 3 3 3 3 30 45 25			
Bmtfd	27 7 1 4 3 3 9 38 41 24			
Grmsby	29 7 1 5 3 3 2 11 31 46 23			
Hartpl	29 3 6 7 2 2 2 22 42 18			
Barrow	31 2 3 11 1 2 22 34 66 11			
Newport	30 2 2 10 0 3 13 29 65 9			

goals-duo on February 20, 1971 — Tony Brown for West Bromwich Albion, and wee Willie Carr for Coventry.

Tony has been a wonderful servant to Albion and is still with the club. Willie Carr is also still going — with Wolves.

One more interesting fact. Ten years ago Brian Clough was manager of Derby County and a few days after Sunderland's Division Two defeat by Sheffield United, he secured the transfer of Colin Todd from the Roker Park club for £175,000. (Fees have rocketed since then!)

Finally, two more items of interest. In the Merseyside clash between Everton and Liverpool which ended in a goalless draw, the Goodison men were led by a young "unknown" centre-forward named David Johnson.

Yes, the same man, now an England international, who is such a great favourite with the Liverpool fans, and one of the stars of their all honours team.

● Since that day in February, 1971, three clubs have dropped out of the Football League — Southport, Barrow and Workington.

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SCOTLAND has gifted soccer with many colourful, yet controversial, characters. Players of undoubted ability and unquestioned talent, but who sometimes hit the headlines for reasons other than their incredible skills.

Jimmy Johnstone, Billy Bremner, Jim Baxter, Pat Crerand, Denis Law and Willie Johnston immediately spring to mind as players who had flair, but could also flare-up.

Andy Ritchie may not have an explosive temperament, but no one can doubt he is one of the most controversial Scots around at the moment.

The Morton maestro has been labelled everything from the 'Idle Idol' to 'The Incredible Bulk' — a not-too-subtle swipe at his weight — and this season has been a far from happy one for Scotland's former Player of the Year and the 1979 winner of SHOOT'S most Exciting Scottish Player of the Year award.

He has been in and out of the first team, unable to claim a permanent place and Andy

recently declared to his manager Benny Rooney: "Let me know where I stand at Cap-pielow. Do I have a future here or not?"

The answer, of course, undoubtedly lies with Ritchie. Rooney is eager for his pin-up player to produce the goods on a regular scale, and he hasn't been slow to leave him out when he hasn't been happy with his form.

At the start of the season it was clear this would be crunch season for Ritchie... the moment of truth for a cultured player of uncanny skills, but also a player who would hardly rival the likes of Archie Gemmill for work-rate.

"That's not my game," he has said in the past. His touches of supreme and spectacular footwork and the inevitable end product were enough to carry him through but, frankly, those moments of genius from Ritchie are getting rarer and rarer.

Andy, whether he likes it or not, will have to work at his game. It's as simple as that.

A warning to Ritchie



"An on-form Andy Ritchie is invaluable to any team," says one opponent. "But when the big man's off form he's really off and he won't compensate in any other way."

In short, Archie Gemmill might be having a 'stinker', but he still works and harries and is good nuisance value just by his sheer presence. Ritchie does not fall into that category.

At the start of the season we said we believed that Andy had the answer to all the doubters with his incredible skills. We see no reason to change our minds at this stage.

With the right sort of mental attitude Andy can be a winner again.

Over to you, Andy. You're running out of time!



Morton's Andy Ritchie (left) would do well to take a leaf out of the textbook of Birmingham's industrious Scot Archie Gemmill (above).

Third and Fourth Division Round-up

The Rochdale miracle

If ever they decide to re-make that classic film 'The Miracle Worker', Peter Madden must be an outstanding candidate for the starring part.

For what Madden has achieved in the six months since he became manager of Fourth Division Rochdale has been little short of a miracle.

Rochdale were down and out when Madden took over just before the season started. In fact there were grave doubts about their ability to start their Fourth Division programme.

They had been forced into an application for re-election — for the eighth time in their history — after finishing bottom of the table last season.

A lot of people felt that time had finally run out for them and were convinced they would not get it. But fate intervened to give them a reprieve.

One club forgot to vote and another, Luton, were unable to because their representative was stuck in a traffic jam.

This enabled Rochdale to beat off the challenge of Alliance League Champions Altrincham and cling on to League status by the skin of their teeth, although the cynics still claimed it would be only a question of time before they went to the wall.

Worst

Bob Stokoe, manager at Spotland at the time, had clearly feared the worst — for he gave free-transfers to half his players. And when they were voted back against all the odds he promptly resigned.

That left Rochdale in a real spot. And Madden stepped up to fill the breach... with astonishing success.

He got busy in the transfer market — all 'free's', of course — to get the playing staff back up to strength and actually re-signed several of the players Stokoe had released.

Everyone buckled down to do such a magnificent job that as January ended, Rochdale found themselves in the unaccustomed position of pushing for promotion to Division Three.

That's the equivalent of winning the European Cup for a team in their position and everyone at Spotland — but Madden in particular — deserves the highest praise for showing what can be done.

Rochdale's resurgence is similar to that of Newport County a few years ago. They were on the point of going out of business when Colin Addison moved in to revive them.

They won promotion to the



Rochdale manager Peter Madden

Third Division and Addison built such a solid base, the club maintained their improvement when he left, with Len Ashurst taking over, and are now in the Cup-Winners' Cup Quarter-Finals.

Another club hoping for big things under new management are Oxford United.

They found themselves in trouble with half the season gone and turned to Ian Greaves, football's most respected man, to help them out of a crisis.

Greaves — who has taken Huddersfield and Bolton into the First Division during his managerial career — was helping out at Hereford after losing his job at Burnden Park, and jumped at the chance of going to Oxford.

He was preferred to such formidable rivals as Bill McGarry for the Oxford job and made an instant impact by helping them collect ten points from his first six games in charge.

Peter Anderson turned his back on the sunshine of Florida to take on one of the most difficult tasks in the game as player-manager of Millwall.

Hard-up Millwall have a history of having to sell their best players to survive. That's what cost George Petchey his job.

And Anderson knows all about being with a club where every penny counts. In fact it was him who enabled Luton to keep going during their darkest days a few years ago.

Luton, desperately in debt, needed quick money to survive. And they raised it by selling Anderson to Belgian aces Royal Antwerp for £70,000.

Anderson eventually found paradise playing with Tampa Bay Rowdies in America. But he did not hesitate to hurry back to England when the Millwall job was offered to him.

Big names like Alan Ball, Martin Peters and Mike Smith are finding out that life is anything but a bed of roses in the lower Divisions.

Smith gave up the team manager's job with Wales to take over

at Hull City — and they are rooted firmly at the foot of the Third Division.

Ball, after a career with Everton, Arsenal and Southampton — not to mention World Cup glory with England — is finding things almost as hard at Blackpool, who have a relegation fight on their hands.

And Peters, his England colleague in that 1966 triumph, looks like achieving no more than mid-table respectability since becoming manager of fallen giants Sheffield United.

Dave Smith — a master at bringing teams up from the Fourth Division — seems certain to do it again with Southend.

The team surprisingly relegated at the end of last season are romping away at the top, so far ahead of the fifth placed club that promotion already seems a formality.

And the Essex seaside team

proved invincible on their Roots Hall ground by winning all their first 15 home matches — a remarkable achievement.

Colin Murphy's new-look Lincoln are chasing hard, opening up a useful gap on the rest of the pack at the top of the Fourth Division.

And it's good to see another club renowned as permanent strugglers up there making a spirited challenge. That's Hartlepool, who we congratulate.

Mike Bailey's impressive Charlton side continue to set the pace in the Third Division and it's clearly going to take something special to bring their march to a halt.

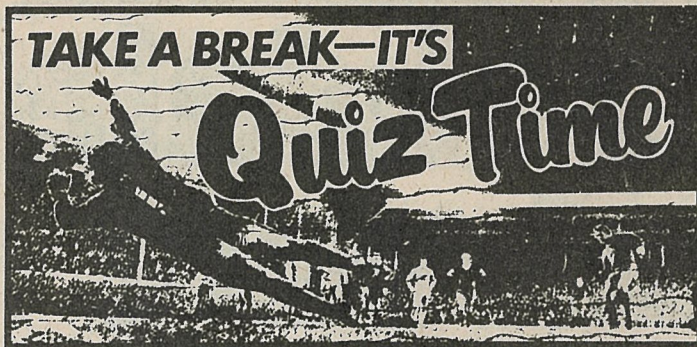
Norman Hunter is carrying on the good work started by Allan Clarke at Barnsley, who are in a strong position. So are Rotherham and Huddersfield — to give Yorkshire fans something to be really proud of.



Ronnie Moore, the former Cardiff striker, heads towards goal for Rotherham against Walsall in an attempt to maintain his side's strong promotion challenge.



Barnsley's Trevor Aylott (dark shirt) fires home against Fulham. Now Barnsley are looking to continue their progress by gaining promotion to the Second Division.



TRUE OR FALSE?

1. Workington Town were the last club to fail in their re-election bid after the 1976-77 season and were replaced by Wimbledon.

2. West German side Bayern Munich (their famous goalkeeper Sepp Maier is pictured right in action) achieved a hat-trick of European Cup-Winners' Cup Final victories in 1974, 1975 and 1976.

3. Scottish First Division club Motherwell were previously known as Wee Alpha.

4. Nottingham Forest winger John Robertson has spent his entire League career with the club.



ODD MAN OUT

1. Which one of these players is not a recognised full-back — Arthur Albiston (Manchester

TRACE-A TEAM

The names of 12 past or present Wrexham players are spelt out in this frame in straight lines, either horizontally, vertically or diagonally and forwards or backwards. How many can you find?

I	W	O	S	U	J	E	R	C	I	L	S
K	J	O	A	I	D	O	E	T	K	H	C
E	U	S	T	W	B	W	N	V	E	A	G
L	C	I	A	E	H	U	T	E	R	U	R
T	D	R	R	I	L	O	N	R	S	E	S
S	D	T	T	R	L	S	O	U	U	W	I
S	S	T	H	I	E	D	G	L	T	T	H
A	L	I	E	I	U	T	S	I	T	L	B
E	L	N	V	S	S	N	N	D	O	T	H
L	C	A	E	A	N	F	H	I	N	E	R
M	D	U	X	T	D	I	M	I	V	K	S
E	S	T	H	G	I	R	W	K	R	A	C

United), Colin Gibson (Aston Villa) or Gerry Gow (Manchester City)?

2. Brian Clough (Nottingham Forest), Len Ashurst (Newport) and Lawrie McMenemy (Southampton) are managers. Which one has not managed Hartlepool?

3. Does Pat Bonner, Roddie McDonald or Frank McGarvey usually play in goal for Celtic?

4. Phil Parkes (West Ham), Stan Bowles (Orient) and Colin Todd (Birmingham) played for England against Portugal in Lisbon in April, 1974. Which one was not making his full international debut?

ANSWERS

1. True. 2. False. 3. True. 4. True. Southport were replaced by Wigan in 1978. 2. False — they won the European Cup in those years. 3. True. 4. True. Lawrie McMenemy, 3. Pat Bonner, 4. Colin Todd, who had played two years earlier against Northern Ireland. TRACE A TEAM. Davies, Hill, Roberts, Jones, Sutton, Carrodus, Edwards, Winter, McNeil, Edwards, Winter.

ON THE BALL ANSWERS

ACROSS:—
(1) Hip. (3) Stewart. (7) Numbered. (13) One. (14) Alan Ainscow. (16) Dry. (18) Sea. (20) Bristol City. (22) Lee. (23) Reassure. (26) Brazier. (29) May.

DOWN:—
(1) Hoe. (2) Pea. (4) Tom. (5) Roe. (6) Anon. (8) Benfica. (9) Recites. (10) Dowel. (11) Ged. (12) Blue. (15) Amber. (17) Rota. (19) Alb. (21) Crew(e). (24) Ear. (25) Use. (27) Arm. (28) Ivy.

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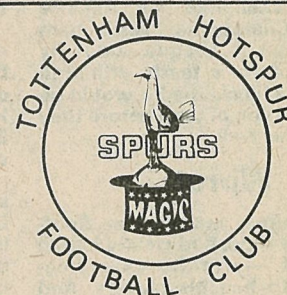
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QUICK FIRE MANAGERS



TOMMY DOCHERTY

It was perhaps ironic that Malcolm Allison's departure "by mutual consent" should coincide with the announcement of the most appalling unemployment figures for nearly half a century.

Hopefully, the likeable if unpredictable Allison will be more fortunate in seeking new employment than most of the luckless — even though it would mean finding his tenth managerial job in the 18 years since he first sat in the hot-seat at Bath City.

Big Mal, the third of four managers Palace have whisked in and out this season, lasted just 56 days as the unacceptable face of modern big-business soccer claimed yet another victim.

All wish the successor well, given a reasonable free hand.

Know-how

But one still wonders whether new chairman Ron Noades, the man with the money, or new manager Dario Gradi, the man with the know-how, will seal the fate of crisis-club Palace?

Of course, Allison is in "good" company — and his second-coming of 56 days at Palace is by no means a record.

Two other big-names who've beaten it have, coincidentally or otherwise, been equally controversial characters — Brian Clough and Tommy Docherty.

Cloughie was sacked by Leeds chairman Manny Cussins, the man who had proudly and publicly acclaimed him: "absolutely the ideal manager for our club," after just 44 summer days in 1974.

And The Doc, the self-proclaimed man: "with more clubs than Jack Nicklaus," lasted

only 28 days in his first spell at Q.P.R. in 1968.

Back to Leeds — and watch out, Allan Clarke — the next-but-one after Clough, Jock Stein, also only lasted the same 44 days in 1978.

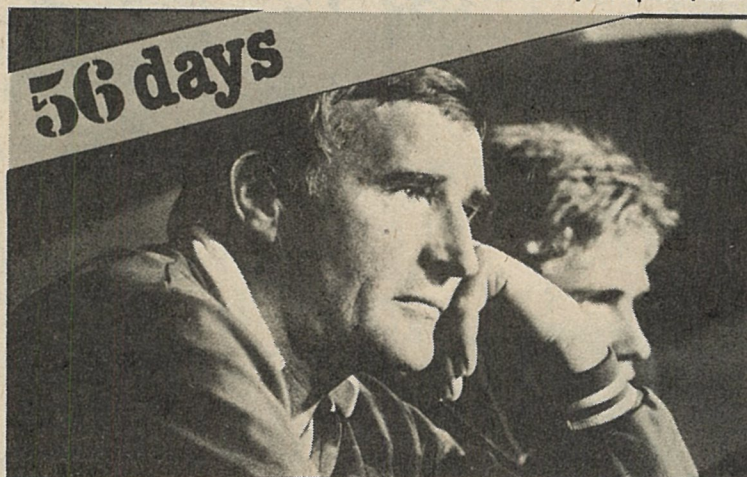
To be fair, though, Stein's case was a little different in that he was shown the open door of the Scottish national side rather than the closed one of Leeds.

Two well-known post-War internationals — Jimmy McIlroy (53 caps for Northern Ireland), and Scotland's Bobby Flavell — each failed to make it a three-week stint.

McIlroy was manager of Bolton for only 18 days in 1970 — and Flavell had one day less with Ayr in 1961.

Even stranger was the case of Tim Ward. He was a Barnsley

MALCOLM ALLISON



JIMMY McILROY

player in March, 1953 when appointed to the manager's job at Exeter, but resigned to become boss back at Barnsley just 25 days later.

Of that time, though, he was actually only at Exeter for the last seven days as, until then, Barnsley hadn't formally relinquished his registration as a player!

Not that these quickfire changes of managership are entirely restricted to modern times.

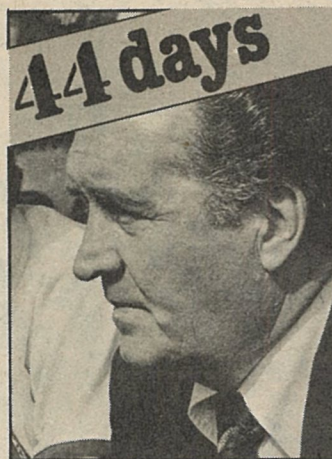
Just before the War, in April, 1939, Johnny Cochrane was in charge of Reading for just 13 days before getting the chop.

But the prize — if that's what it is — must surely go to Bill Lambton.

Lambton, another of those managers who tended to "do the rounds a bit", was appointed as Scunthorpe's new manager on 21st April, 1959, and hit the trail as Scunthorpe's ex-manager on 24th April, 1959!

No one can find anything to beat those THREE DAYS in League circles.

But it's said (though admittedly we can't trace any firm proof) that



JOCK STEIN

one character was once appointed manager to a Mexican club a couple of hours before kick-off — and then, with his new side five goals down, was fired at half-time!

Maybe that couldn't happen in Britain unless, of course, some Mister Chairman somewhere knows different...

Someone once said, though, that goalkeepers must be 50 per cent mad to even think of taking on the job at all — and soon add the other fifty!

Be that as it may, they're not daft enough later to risk becoming managers — or not many of 'em, anyway.

Look through the lists of hundreds of League club managers who've found and lost jobs in recent years — and you'll see the path from goalmouth to manager's office is a pretty uncommon one to tread.

Maybe they've just got more sense than their jesting outfield team-mates often seem to think!

BRIAN CLOUGH



TREVOR FRANCIS

'BETTER THAN EVER'



ENGLAND manager Ron Greenwood was among the all-ticket crowd that saw Trevor Francis have a major say in the goal that took Nottingham Forest into the Fifth Round of the F.A. Cup.

Greenwood was impressed by the manner in which Francis has re-established himself after a seven month spell of frustration and doubt that followed his Achilles tendon operation last summer.

But if he needs further evidence that Francis has recovered sufficiently to warrant a place in the England side to face Spain at Wembley on March 25, he could do worse than listen to another England striker Garry Birtles.

The Manchester United star, who played alongside Francis for Forest before he had his serious injury, commented: "Having seen Trevor in action and now played against him, he's an even better player now than he was."

"He's got everything back that he had, and from what I've heard he feels stronger and fitter than before. Trevor really is an outstanding player... pace, skill and the ability to do the totally unexpected."

Francis himself would regard the regaining of his England place as the final confirmation that he has made a full recovery, but anyone who watches Forest regularly would not need any convincing.

He scored five goals in his first eight games back, but his sheer presence has given Forest's flat

season the sparkle it so desperately needed.

"Of course I'm delighted with the way it's gone," admitted Francis. "I couldn't really have wished to do so well and before I made my comeback in Valencia I felt as though I was going to need a lot of help."

"I was just pleased to be playing again, and all Brian Clough said to me was get through the first 90 minutes and take it from there. Fortunately, I haven't really had to be cautious."

"The game in Valencia was a really competitive one and every game since then seems to have been the same. There's been no opportunity to take it easy... but I never wanted that anyway."

"I wanted defenders to come and tackle me as hard as they did before, but judging by the type of treatment I've had they didn't need to be told."

"During one match a defender came in hard from behind and when he walked away said 'Just testing Trev!' But as I told him, it appears as though everybody is doing the same."

Threatened

So pleased is Francis — and the surgeon who performed the operation — with his comeback, that the injury that threatened his career is now no more than a page or two in his scrapbook.

"I don't think about it at all now," he admitted. "When I was in the early stages of playing again, I was asked if I wanted some special support in my boot, but it was the last thing I needed."

"I wanted everything to be the same as it was before and by taking my recovery step by step, I'm certain I have found the benefits at the end of the line."

"When you are out for as long a time as I was you must have certain doubts, but I think it helped me knowing that I had recovered from a long period out with a similar injury when I was at Birmingham."

After his first injury he returned to emerge as football's first £1m man. Already, he's proving that he's left that valuation behind him too.

Garry Birtles, Trevor's former strike partner at Forest, now in action for Manchester United.



CAREER DETAILS

Trevor scored 118 goals in 280 League games for Birmingham — an average of one goal every 2.2 games. Before his injury, he scored 20 goals in 50 League games for Nottingham Forest — a goal every 2.5 games. From the date of his return to the end of last month, he played eight League and F.A. Cup matches and scored five goals — one goal every 1.6 games.

ISRAEL v SCOTLAND

TEL AVIV February 25th



ESPAÑA 82

able. They could buy top foreign coaches, too, to help us learn more quickly. But as things stand, money must go to the defence of our nation."

Raging inflation in the Israeli economy has hardly helped football's development. As the financial climate has grown cooler, so gates have fallen. People can watch European football on television, so they are less inclined to pay to watch Israel's leading clubs. The Israeli First Division, which comprises 16 sides, struggles continually against falling gates.

With money so tight, Cohen fears the leading Israeli clubs won't be able to make the foreign tours, pay the proper wages which attract the best players, nor develop their facilities — factors which are crucial to the progress of the game in Israel.

'Development'

"We have the natural talent, that is what is so promising," says Cohen. "But of course, there is so much more to make a good player — knowledge of the game and its tactics, the highest level of fitness, the constant development of a player's football brain."

"At the moment, some of the best footballers in Israel leave the game because clubs cannot afford to pay enough to keep them. These players take other jobs which pay better money, and so their talent is lost to the game."

'No success until we are at peace'

SAYS AVI COHEN

AS Israel prepare to play Scotland in Tel Aviv next week, Israel's best-known player, Liverpool's Avi Cohen says: "Israel will only be a power in football when our nation is at peace. Until then, all the money in the Government goes to the defence budget while our football stadia and general facilities are poor. It is a shame but inevitable."

Of course, Scotland, Northern Ireland and Portugal are the likeliest bets to contest the two places available for the trip to Spain. But for a nation established as recently as 1948, Israel's exploits in world football have already made them many friends and won them some notable rewards.

Cohen accepts that much has been achieved. "Football has come on a lot in Israel and now it is the most popular sport, together with basketball. They play football on the beaches and in the streets of our country and that is an

encouraging sign for the future.

"What is sad is that the pitches and stadia are of such poor quality. The players are semi-professionals and they train every afternoon. But even though they are very enthusiastic and love the game, they need better facilities to help them."

"Money is the biggest problem, or rather the lack of it. If they had money in Israeli football, they could make good facilities to develop the talent there is avail-

Avi Cohen is proof that there IS talent of sufficient quality within Israel. He joined his local club, Maccabi Tel Aviv, when he was as young as nine, playing as a junior footballer. He played first team football at 17 and became an international two years later. Now, at 24, he is a frequent member of arguably the best side in Britain and one of the best in Europe. The simple fact is, you don't win a place in the Liverpool first team if you're short on true ability.

Understandably, all Israel is proud of Avi Cohen, even though he was born in Egypt! "Always I have a wonderful reception when I go home to play for my country," he says. "They know what it is like to play for an English team, especially Liverpool. They share my pride."

Many also share Cohen's doubts and fears as to the future growth of the game in Israel. The prayer of every one of them, if they love football and hope for its prosperity within the country, must surely be — "Shalom, shalom".

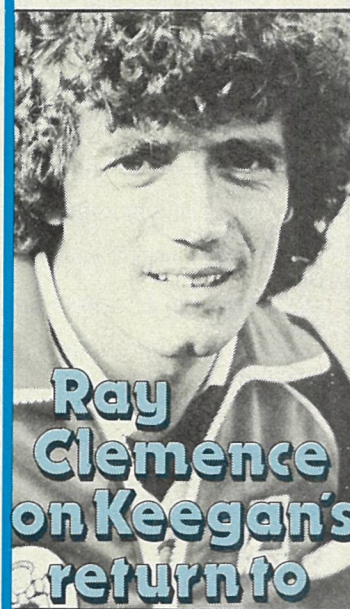
GROUP 6

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
Portugal	3	2	1	0	4	0	5
N. Ireland	3	1	1	1	3	1	3
Scotland	2	1	1	0	1	0	3
Israel	4	0	3	1	1	4	3
Sweden	4	0	2	2	1	5	2

Results: Israel 0, Northern Ireland 0; Sweden 1, Israel 1; Sweden 0, Scotland 1; Northern Ireland 3, Sweden 0; Scotland 0, Portugal 0; Israel 0, Sweden 0; Portugal 1, Northern Ireland 0; Portugal 3, Israel 0.

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Sunderland and Cardiff team groups + Mike Channon + Tony Currie + Craig Johnston + Focus on Lee Chapman (Stoke). Ten Adidas World Cup Tango Footballs to be won.

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FOCUS ON... TWO ISRAEL STARS WHO SHOULD FACE SCOTLAND IN NEXT WEEK'S WORLD CUP QUALIFIER

Gideon Damti Shimshon Tel-Aviv

FULL NAME: Gideon Damti
BIRTHPLACE: Israel

BIRTHDATE: October 30, 1951

PREVIOUS CLUBS: None

MARRIED: To Miriam

CHILDREN: Three daughters

CAR: Fiat 127

FAVOURITE NEWSPAPER:

Sports papers

FAVOURITE PLAYER: Kenny

Dalglish

MOST PROMISING TEAM-MATE:

Tourk

FAVOURITE OTHER TEAM:

Liverpool

FOOTBALL HERO OF

CHILDHOOD: Pele

FAVOURITE OTHER SPORT:

Tennis

MOST DIFFICULT OPPONENT:

Berti Vogts (Borussia

Moenchengladbach, West

Germany)

MOST MEMORABLE MATCH: v
South Korea, 1976 Seoul. Israel
won 3-1

BIGGEST DISAPPOINTMENT:
Israel failing to qualify for the
1978 World Cup

FAVOURITE FOOD & DRINK:

Steak, cola

MISCELLANEOUS LIKES AND

DISLIKES: Touring/Injuries

FAVOURITE HOLIDAY RESORT:

The Greek Islands

FAVOURITE ACTIVITY ON DAY

OFF: To play with my kids

FAVOURITE SINGERS: Tom

Jones, Rod Stewart

AFTER-MATCH ROUTINE: Go out
with my friends

BEST FRIEND: Avi Cohen

BIGGEST INFLUENCE ON

CAREER: Shefer, the former coach

of the Israeli national team

INTERNATIONAL HONOURS: 60

full caps for Israel

PERSONAL AMBITION: To play

in Europe

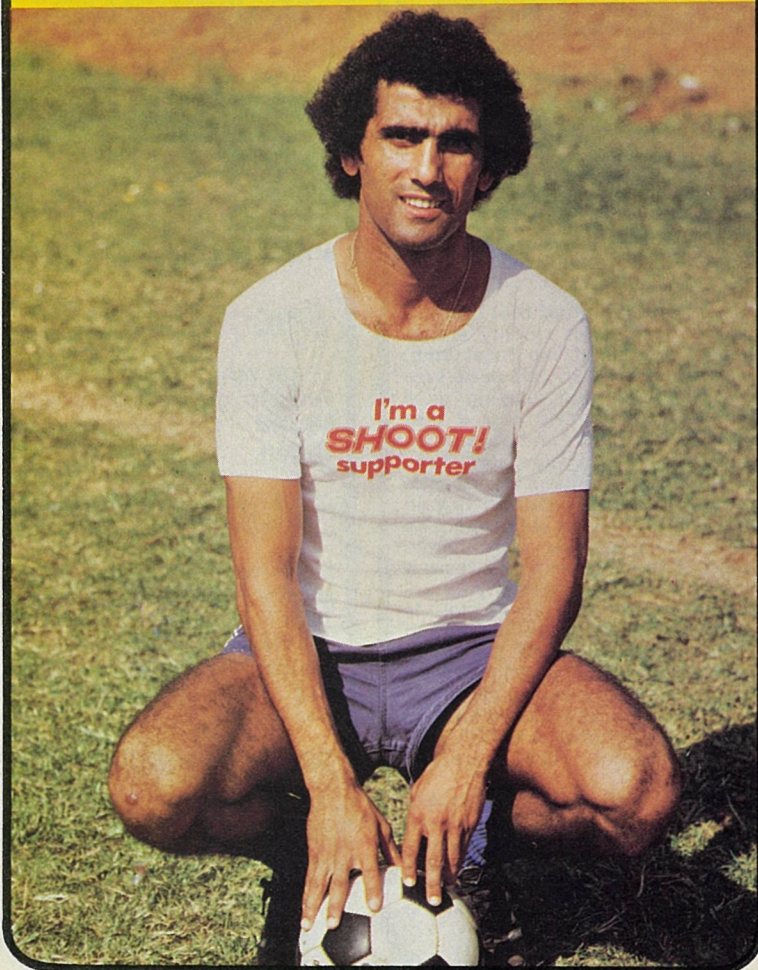
IF NOT A PLAYER, WHAT JOB

WOULD YOU DO? Doctor

WHICH PERSON IN THE WORLD

WOULD YOU MOST LIKE TO

MEET? President Sadat



Avi Cohen Liverpool

FULL NAME: Avi Cohen

BIRTHPLACE: Egypt, but I went
to Israel when I was one-year-old

BIRTHDATE: November 14, 1956

HEIGHT: 5ft 11½ins

WEIGHT: 11st 6lbs

PREVIOUS CLUBS: Macabbi Tel

Aviv

MARRIED: To Dorit

CHILDREN: A daughter Lee, who
was born 26-10-1980

CAR: BMW 320

FAVOURITE NEWSPAPER:

Liverpool Echo

FAVOURITE PLAYER: Kenny

Dalglish

MOST PROMISING TEAM-MATE:

Sammy Lee

FAVOURITE OTHER TEAM:

Macabbi Tel Aviv

FOOTBALL HERO OF

CHILDHOOD: Franz Beckenbauer

FAVOURITE OTHER SPORT:

Basketball

MOST DIFFICULT OPPONENT:

Robbie Rensenbrink

MOST MEMORABLE MATCH:

Liverpool v Aston Villa last

season when we won the

Championship

BIGGEST DISAPPOINTMENT:

Losing last season's F.A. Cup

Semi-Final

FRIENDLIEST AWAY FANS:

Everton

FAVOURITE FOOD & DRINK: Fillet
steak. The cup of tea after training
on a cold day

MISCELLANEOUS LIKES AND
DISLIKES: English
hospitality/English weather

FAVOURITE HOLIDAY RESORT:
Israel

FAVOURITE T.V. STAR, MALE
AND FEMALE: Benny Hill/Sue
Ellen Ewing

FAVOURITE ACTIVITY ON DAY
OFF: I like to spend my free time
with my wife

FAVOURITE SINGERS: Billy Joel,
Sheena Easton

AFTER-MATCH ROUTINE: Go for
a meal with a few friends

BEST FRIEND: Sammy Lee

BIGGEST INFLUENCE ON
CAREER: My brother Yossi —
when I finished school I wanted
to finish with football, but he

encouraged me to carry on

INTERNATIONAL HONOURS:
Under 21 and full honours for
Israel

PERSONAL AMBITION: To be
successful

IF NOT A PLAYER, WHAT JOB

WOULD YOU DO? Businessman

WHICH PERSON IN THE WORLD

WOULD YOU MOST LIKE TO

MEET? Don't know